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12 July 1985

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT RATIFIES PACT WORKED OUT WITH ATLU

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 11 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda ratified the collective agreement negotiated between government officials and the ATLU on behalf of all non-established workers in the nation of Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday, 1st May. This followed a meeting between both parties and the Minister of Labour along with the Labour Commissioner.

The agreement takes effect from the first Sep-

tember 1984. At a meeting held at the Ministry of Finance with Comrade John St. Luce, the Minister of Finance and officials of his ministry with the ATLU, the Hon. Minister promised to commence payment at the new rates from the first week in June.

Vacation leave due to a large number of CBH employees since during the 1970's along with a half day's pay per week which

was taken away from workers would be paid to those employees entitled before the end of May. It is expected that the 'back-pay' which is effective from 1st September 1984 would be paid in two instalments, the first one before the end of July 1985.

Workers expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Union to get the contract completed and an effective date set for payment of the monies.

CSO: 3298/765

12 July 1985

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

REPORT ON DUAL LABOR DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD 6 MAY

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 11 May 85 p 1

[Text]

Labour Day celebrations on Monday 6th May came off to me, quietly. The two political parties functioning in the State held previous meetings getting their supporters ready for the day.

Loyally, these supporters dressed in the Parties uniform, wended their ways to the places of assembly.

At the West Bus Station members and friends gathered and listened to the speech of the Honourable Prime Minister and Deputy, then marched to the famous Fort James where the day was spent picnicing, while the Antigua Workers' Union mem-

bers led by Mr. Malcolm Daniel marched from Freedom Hall in Newgate Street through Market Street and on to the terminal then to their destination at Fryes Bay.

Crowds seemed rather small this year, but buses, cars, and trucks, were busy transporting supporters of the ALP from country districts, long after the march had left for Fort James. So these added to the already crowds of followers.

In the speeches supporters were reminded of their loyalty, which many showed, even not dressed in the uniform. Monday was indeed a fine sunny

day and I am sure all had an enjoyable time.

As I watched some elderly women moving graciously to the strains of music, I saw that they were very happy.

"God bless Papa Bird" some said, while others said the ALP". This was enough satisfaction which they expressed.

Truthfully, we have only to travel abroad then we learn of the happiness, freedom (may be a bit too much freedom too) Antiguan and Barbudans enjoy. May God continue to bless this nation, and its leaders to show more of our loyalty, we can pray for them.

CSO: 3298/765

12 July 1985

BAHAMAS

DRUGS ISSUE CONTINUES TO POLARIZE POLITICAL FORCES

FNM Statement

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 13 May 85 p 3

[Text]

The Free National Movement has totally rejected the proposition by PLP Chairman Sean McWeeney that the FNM's decision to demonstrate during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference is due to, "Our inability to draw a distinction between partisan politics and the national interest."

In a press release issued Saturday the FNM stated, "Mr. McWeeney indulges in rather extravagant language in an effort to obscure the truth and gloss over the fact that he does not have a single argument which can stand the test of reason."

"Any PLP politician should studiously avoid lecturing others on their alleged inability to distinguish between partisan politics and the national interest. It is pure partisan politics laced with personal greed for money and power which has discredited the PLP Government and brought shame and disgrace on the good name of The Bahamas. It is because of this greed that PLP Leaders refuse to step down but choose instead to stay in power stuffing themselves and dragging the country down with them."

Mr. McWeeney says the FNM is "the laughing stock of the public domain" but his vision and his hearing are seriously impaired. There is, in fact, very little laughing in the public domain these days and a whole lot of anger and outrage at an incredibly corrupt Government and a seriously compromised Prime Minister who refuses to go.

"Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and his PLP Government have been discredited in the eyes of the Bahamian people — including honest PLPs and in the eyes of the outside world."

"Mr. McWeeney, being as close as he is, must know this better than those who merely stand in shock and amazement as the confessions and revelations of rottenness emanate from his PLP Government."

"No indeed, the public is not at all amused and least of all deceived by Mr. McWeeney's pronouncements as he rides to the defence of a corrupt organization and its leaders, some of whom would seem more properly placed in jail than in government."

"It has been truly said that wonders never cease and Mr. McWeeney has given cause for great wonderment as he declares that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas includes all of us whether PLP, FNM or otherwise! When did this profound revelation penetrate the murky recesses of the PLP mentality? When did FNMs become Bahamians in the sight of the PLP lords and masters?"

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"Not when Mr. McWeeney goes on ZNS Radio and Television to attack the FNM for a posture about which ZNS has not informed the public in the first place. Since Mr. McWeeney has been sucked into the center of the PLP vortex perhaps the experience has left him giddy enough to upset his sense of fairplay.

"What about that list of talents the Prime Minister ordered to be drawn up so only PLP's would get jobs? Was Mr. McWeeney somewhere in the convention audience beaming at the genius of a leader who announced discrimination against FNMs as public policy? Including Judy mae Lewis who hails from his own Constituency of Kemp's Bay? No-one heard him say, 'not fair!'

"What about the solemn proclamation by Cabinet Minister Philip Bethel that 'God gave this land to the PLP? Did Mr. McWeeney's heart leap with joy at the glad tidings that God did not include FNMs when he made a gift of this Commonwealth? No-one heard him cry out 'FNMs too!'

"And what about the FNMs in the Family Islands (like Eleuthera) who are arbitrarily denied licences to make a living for themselves?

"And the humble people (as in Kemp's Bay) who get fired from their Government jobs for having the peculiar notion that FNMs have the freedom to support their party of choice?

"Mr. McWeeney's talk of patriotism and national pride has a rather dull and sour ring in the ears of those Bahamians who are members and supporters of the Free National Movement. They can see quite well that Mr. McWeeney is a victim of the same disease of hypocrisy and double standards which has infected most of the PLP leadership.

"We in the FNM know what patriotism and national pride is all about. This is why we state again as clearly as we can that we will demonstrate as long as this country is in the clutches of a Government which has long since lost the moral right to govern.

"We want the world to know that the low-down standards of Lynden Pindling and his Government are not the standards the Bahamian people expect in the conduct of their business; that we as a people know the difference between right and wrong, between lies and truth, and between high ideals and base motivations. We suggest that Mr. McWeeney re-educate himself so that he will also be able to make these vital distinctions. Then maybe he will find a few PLP flags to burn."

Pindling Interview

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Text] PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, attending a Caribbean Development Bank meeting in Barbados, admitted that the Commission of Inquiry had affected him, but thought that the situation was now "approaching normalcy."

Reudon Eversley of CANA, who interviewed Sir Lynden in Bridgetown where the annual board of Governors of CDB was meeting, asked him how the drug scandal had affected him personally.

"It has affected me politically, mainly in...that it has given the Opposition an opportunity to challenge me personally and the Government in a way that it never has before," he said. "I think they are on the tail-end because the situation is approaching normalcy."

"It'll probably take a few more months before it does, but I think they will have reached their peak and what they thought was an excellent wicket will turn out to be very wet ground," he said.

The Prime Minister said he believed the Bahamas was coming out of the "state of shock" caused by the Commission report, which made accusations against two of his Cabinet ministers, an MP and several other government officials. The Commission found that former Youth Minister Kendal Nottage, whether he knew it or not, had fronted for a Mafia figure, and former Agriculture Minister George Smith had accepted drug-related pay offs. Both men resigned from the Cabinet, but remained in the House.

Sir Lynden said now that the drug problem had been highlighted he hoped it would result in the Bahamas coming up with the "most effective means of control and rehabilitation anywhere in the region."

He said he did not intend to call early elections as demanded by political opponents, since the situation did not warrant such a move.

He said that drug trafficking continued to be a serious problem, but Bahamas authorities in collaboration with their US counterparts were making more this year than last year.

He said that one of their major successes took place a month ago when 100 smugglers were arrested and tens of millions of dollars in drugs confiscated during a joint two-week operation across the island chain. He said an extensive radar surveillance scheme to fight drug trafficking will be in place in two years time for the 750 mile stretch of the Bahama islands.

He said it will form part of intensified joint efforts by the Bahamas and the United States to crack the multi-billion dollars narcotics racket in the area.

He said the net will cover the area from south Georgia to as far as Haiti, including Cuba, and should "substantially and significantly" increase the capability of the Bahamas to detect and intercept boats and light aircraft using its territory to ferry cocaine and marijuana to the United States.

"We would be able to pick up any boat or aircraft penetrating that area from south or east or west as the case may be and with the improved communications facilities, we would be able to intercept either on the water or in the air," he said.

On the economy, he said current indications are that 1985 will be the best year for the Bahamas since the onset of the recession in 1980.

The country's balance of payments position was improving, money supply and employment were growing and tourist arrivals were projected to reach 2.6 million compared with 2.3 million in 1984, he said.

He said raising efficiency in the public sector and keeping wage increases on par with inflation are two areas that will have to be addressed.

He said the Civil Service payroll absorbed 60 percent of Government expenditure and in any proposed streamlining, the focus will be on increasing productive levels and limiting staff increases.

"I don't think we have to start lay-offs and making people redundant or anything of that kind. I think we can reach our objectives by better controlling the increases and better coordination of the overall picture," he said.

"Let us take three departments A, B and C. Department A may have a surplus of bodies, instead of allowing B to go out and add bodies, they could be taken from A..."

He said with inflation down to below five percent from double digit levels a few years ago, "we now have to try and manage our negotiations in such a way that increases in wages would bear a better relationship to the real inflation factor, unless further increases can be matched by obvious improvements in productivity."

Hanna on U.S. Searches

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

DEPUTY PLP leader Arthur Hanna said today he "presumed" National Security Minister Loftus Roker was acting on the Attorney General's advice when he allowed US law enforcement agents to conduct searches in the Bahamas.

Mr Hanna told Parliament Friday he was of the opinion that the Constitution does not give police the authority to delegate power of search to agents of another country.

His remarks presumably arose as the result of "Operation Blue Lightning," the first phase of an ongoing Caribbean drug war by US/Bahamian agencies. Under the programme, Bahamian officers were placed on American aircraft and boats to authorize arrests in the Bahamas.

"I presumed that the advice he got was from the Attorney General. The Attorney General advises Government ministries on all legal matters, particularly on major agreements," Mr Hanna said today.

It could be, he admitted, that the Minister acted without the advice of the Attorney General.

"Unless you are sure of what you are doing, no one should have embarked on an agreement of that nature without seeking the advice of the Attorney General," he said.

"It is possible that he didn't (seek Mr Adderley's advice), but I presume he did."

Mr Hanna warned the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Security Friday "not to interfere with the sovereignty of the Bahamas."

He told the House that he had noticed some unusual activity "that has caused me to suspect that my country's sovereignty may be in jeopardy."

When Mr Roker responded to Mr Hanna, he neither confirmed nor denied he had been acting on the advice of the Attorney General by allowing US agents to conduct searches on Bahamian territory.

Mr Roker told the House he had three points to make:

(1) He wanted to assure Hubert Ingraham (Cooper's Town, PLP) and Milo Butler (Pinedale, PLP) that he would do whatever he could to assist Mr Butler as chairman of a Select Committee appointed to

investigate the drug problem;

(2) He was satisfied that Mr Hanna was sincere when he said he spoke out of concern for the sovereignty of the country and that "I am no less a Bahamian than he is, and"

He claimed that Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes (FNM) taught the PLP how to be greedy and "this is the kind of thing that will lead us to hell. This is why people think we aren't serious."

Mr Hanna said today it would be foolish not to take an important matter to the Attorney General.

Asked if he felt the current matter was important, Mr Hanna said he could not make a judgment on behalf of another minister and there could be many reasons why a Minister would not want to seek the advice of the Attorney General.

He said, in his view, it is quite clear that a US law enforcement officer could board a Bahamian boat in international waters with the consent of the Bahamas Government "but, in Bahamian waters, that is something else."

Mr Hanna took the view that a US agent could board a Bahamian boat in Bahamian waters if the captain gave his consent. However, he said that such consent could not be given at gunpoint or if the captain were threatened.

Mr Hanna said the law says

who a policeman can search and when.

"If I can search, it means that nobody else can do it...The law does not allow anyone to search anyone," he argued.

Mr Hanna said that the Attorney General does not volunteer advice unless he thinks that someone is doing something wrong, or might be doing something wrong.

"I don't want to give the impression that I know he (Mr Adderley) did (give advice). I presume he did. I addressed my remarks to the Attorney General, the legal wing of the Government. The only person who can tell us is either the Attorney General or the Minister of National Security. It's not important from my standpoint who gave the advice. The Minister did not say that he gave it on his own," Mr Hanna said.

He said that Mr Adderley's silence on the matter does not necessarily mean consent.

Mr Hanna said his only concern is that the Government is working within the framework of the law.

"I hope that the Government itself doesn't breach the law in its attempt to carry out the law. That is my only concern," he said.

Mr Hanna was of the opinion that a Government should not breach the law unless - perhaps - there is a national emergency such as a hurricane or typhoon.

Isaacs Proposals

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 May 85 p 4

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

THE BAHAMIAN drug problem "must not be an American problem, solved by Americans" if it takes place in our territory, Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs told the House of Assembly Friday.

Mr Isaacs was the third Member to address the controversial issue of whether US law enforcement agents should be allowed to conduct searches in the Bahamas in the wake of "Operation Blue Lightning,"

the first phase of an ongoing US/Bahamian war against drugs.

Mr Isaacs also called on magistrates and judges to:

- Take a good look at Section 261 of the Criminal Procedure Code which empowers them to seize property - acquired through crime - from convicted offenders, on behalf of the country, and;

- Invoke the maximum prison penalties so that drug traf-

fickers won't feel they can "buy their way" out of the country.

Mr Isaacs said it has been many years since Section 261 of the Criminal Procedure Act had been used. He felt that this and longer prison terms might be "one spoke in the wheel" to get rid of drug traffickers.

And, on the question of US agents operating here, Mr Isaacs, a QC, said:

"It must not be an American problem, solved by Americans if it takes place in Bahamian waters."

"We feel that in dealing with offences committed in the Bahamas, it is a Bahamian problem and it must be a Bahamian problem assisted by America."

Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes raised the question about US drug searches Thursday when he told Parliament that a Bahamian should be "calling the shots" during Bahamian operations. He said that the activity by US agencies might even be against the law. At the same time, he welcomed the assistance of the US Government.

Mr Isaacs said that when Government does something right it, quite rightly, takes the credit.

"But, when this scourge is upon us, they now want to

involve both sides of the House to consider the problem," he said.

He said Government is now trying to cover up its failure by saying that it is a national problem. Since Government has not been able to come up with a solution after a decade, it should admit that it has failed and go back to the people for a mandate, he said.

Mr Isaacs told the House that the war against drug trafficking has to be tied to a monumental effort to stimulate the economy and create employment. Too many young people who leave school are unable to find jobs so they become involved in drugs, he told the House.

Mr Isaacs said that Government has allocated \$75 million for infrastructure, "but when it comes to drug trafficking and rehabilitation, it seems Government is going around with its hands out and asking for contributions."

He felt that if Government could borrow \$75 million for public works - and he did not object to that - it could borrow money to combat the drug problem.

He criticised National Security Minister Loftus Roker for saying that the FNM are "soft" on the drug issue.

Accusation Against FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 May 85 p 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts] FOREIGN and Tourism Minister Clement Maynard charged in the House of Assembly Wednesday afternoon that some admitted drug traffickers seem to be "hand in glove" with the top leadership of the official opposition Free National Movement.

The House Leader also declared that the Government has done as much as humanly possible, within the constraints of its limited resources, to bring some control over drug trafficking and abuse in the Bahamas. Government, he said, has every intention of preventing the trafficking.

Mr. Maynard was debating a motion moved by Pine Dale MP Milo Butler Jr for the appointment of a select committee to consider drug trafficking, drug abuse, drug prevention, drug rehabilitation and all matters connected with it.

He said that in every case that he knows about, the Government has never taken a single drug trafficker, drug smuggler or drug pusher off the Stop List or the Restricted List.

Mr Maynard said that he has met with US Secretary of State George Shultz and Vice President George Bush and discussed matters involving cooperation in the war against drug trafficking.

He said that one of the results of the talks was Operation Blue Lightning, a joint effort by the US Coast Guard and Bahamian police in conducting drug raids.

He said the Government supports the Commission Report and some of the recommendations are already being implemented.

He noted that some self-confessed drug smugglers are still seeking privileges and some admitted drug traffickers are even being looked upon in the country as national heroes.

Mr Maynard said he has observed some of these people walking about. He said they seem to be hand in glove with the top leadership of the Official Opposition.

Workers Party Blast at FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text] THE OPPOSITION Free National Movement came under attack today from the National Polling Commission for failing to deal effectively in removing Prime Minister Pindling and his government from power. The Commission called on the opposition to "march corruption out of power, NOW!"

Members of the Polling Commission spent today on Bay Street collecting signatures for a petition, urging the FNM to take immediate and necessary measures to rid the country of the "corrupt PLP." The members intend to march to Mr Kendal Isaacs' Dowdeswell Street law firm and present the FNM leader with the petition.

"By playing a friendly game of cat and mouse with the PLP, you FNM leaders have exposed to PLP victimization all of us who answer your calls to rally, demonstrate and march against the PLP," said a statement issued by the Polling Commission today.

The Commission accused the Opposition of "soft talk and occasional protests," in the House of Assembly and claim that many FNM supporters are confused by the constant "turning around."

"Sometimes you march, most times you don't march. One day you declare that Pindling will be interrupted constantly whenever he speaks in the House, the

next day Pindling speaks without interruption. This minute you will move a vote of no-confidence against the Prime Minister, the next minute the vote is cancelled. While you are pledging to march and march, you are calling off all demonstrations. Before a strategy can be digested by us, your supporters, you change the strategy," the Polling Commission charged.

Answering the charges today the FNM said that despite what the Commission says, they do have a programme of action to rid the country of Prime Minister Pindling and his government.

"Some segments of the programme are already in the pipeline, including our action before the Supreme Court with regard to the Public Disclosure Act," the FNM responded. "It would be improper, however, to comment on that aspect of our programme because it is under judicial consideration."

The FNM denied the Commission's charge that the no-confidence vote in Parliament against the Prime Minister has been cancelled.

"It has not been moved because the same matters relating to the Public Disclosure Act are a vital part of the resolution but cannot be proceeded with until the courts have disposed of it. When this happens then our parliamentary members will move to have the deleted portions restored to the no-confidence resolution," the FNM explained.

The Opposition further said that it is wrong to say that they have called off all demonstrations.

"What we did was hold off for the time being demonstrations outside the House of Assembly. This was done for two reasons, namely, because the no-confidence motion had to be postponed and because we did not want to wear out our loyal supporters who have, on every occasion, responded to our call to march and to picket."

The FNM vowed that they will march and demonstrate "again and again" until the PLP government steps down. "But we will do so with proper consideration for timing these events and fitting them into our overall strategy. Certain other details of that strategy cannot, for obvious reasons, be prematurely revealed," the FNM said.

In their statement the Polling Commission said that they, as FNM supporters, "are losing our fervour and have become disappointed with FNM ineffectiveness. Whenever a political party, in opposition or in government, fails to do what it ought to do there is a serious erosion and corruption of principles."

The FNM answered that they understand the frustration felt by their supporters and other Bahamians because the Prime Minister refuses to call a general election.

"We have pledged to work unceasingly on all fronts as our human and financial resources permit. But we will do so within the terms of the Constitution and the law. To go beyond that will be to put our country in grave danger of anarchy and emergency rule," the FNM said.

By 3 o'clock this afternoon the Polling Commission, stationed outside Made-moiselle since 6am, had collected 150 signatures. They hope to reach their goal of 200 by the time the poll closes at 6 pm.

FNM Response to Pindling

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] THE OFFICIAL opposition Free National Movement declared this afternoon that Prime Minister Pindling made a "dangerous miscalculation" when in an interview in Barbados he told a reporter that the issue of drug-related and other forms of corruption will blow over in "a few more months."

The FNM said in a statement issued today that it seems that as if the Prime Minister is "making the same mistake other leaders have made when they have become wrapped up in themselves and drunk with power."

The statement was in response to an interview CANA correspondent Reudon Eversley conducted with the Prime Minister in Bridgetown, Barbados, where he was attending a Caribbean Development Bank meeting as Minister of Finance, the Cabinet post he assumed in a major reshuffle last October.

During the interview, the Prime Minister admitted that the Commission of Inquiry had affected him, but thought that the situation was now "approaching normalcy."

"Comments attributed to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling by a CANA correspondent in Barbados further indicate that Sir Lynden is totally oblivious to the feelings of the Bahamian people," said the FNM statement.

"Either that or he was trying to fool people in the eastern Caribbean and never expected to have his words reach the Bahamas," the FNM said.

"The Prime Minister is making a dangerous miscalculation when he says that the issue of drug-related corruption and other forms of corruption will blow over in a 'few more months,'" the statement said.

The FNM said: "That will not happen and the FNM will continue to keep these issues alive and before the Bahamian electorate for as long as it takes to convince Sir Lynden that he should call elections or until he runs out of time constitutionally."

The official opposition said that it is hard to believe that after all these years in Bahamian politics, the Prime Minister can now make "such an erroneous judgment" about his own people.

"But it does seem as if he is making the same mistake other leaders have made when they have become wrapped up in themselves and drunk with power," the FNM said.

12 July 1985

"The Bahamian people have always been a peaceful people and inclined to conduct their politics along civilised and peaceful lines.

"Nevertheless, there are strong indications that this attitude is fast dissipating in the face of the outrages the people have had to endure as a result of PLP corruption, neglect and spitefulness.

"We urge Mr Pindling to think again and to provoke the Bahamian people no further," the FNM statement said.

Further Attack on FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 May 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

SENATOR Sean McWeeney National Chairman of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party, expressed great concern Wednesday night that "individuals of influence," including some clergymen, are promoting the idea that Bahamians ought to be ashamed of the Bahamas.

He further accused the Official Opposition of blatantly attempting to undermine the national interest and to bring external pressure to bear on the Bahamas by writing discouraging letters to the US National Council of Mayors and the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Addressing a mini constituency rally in Fort Charlotte at the T G Glover Junior High School, Senator McWeeney also declared that the very "subtle message" that the Free National Movement was trying to communicate to each of the foreign bodies in the letters was that they ought not come to the Bahamas.

He told the rally that he read far too frequently in the Press statements by individuals who hold prominent positions in society, who have gone so far as to say that they are ashamed of their country and that they are, by implication, ashamed to be Bahamians.

"I could understand individuals having difficulty with a party. There's nothing wrong with that. There is nothing wrong with an individual saying that he or she cannot subscribe to the philosophy, the pro-

gramme or the policy of the PLP," he said.

"But to go so far as to express a loss of faith and confidence in one's own country, it is impossible to sink any lower than that," he said.

"It is a matter, as I said, of great concern to me, a matter that has caused me a great deal of concern, to find that individuals of influence in this society who are now actively promoting the idea that the Bahamas is something to be ashamed of."

"That, I believe, must be deplored and condemned in the strongest possible terms," Sen McWeeney said.

He said that this attitude is best exemplified by the leadership of the FNM, "which thinks nothing of trying to undermine the economy of this country by writing letters off to individuals in foreign lands aimed at discouraging them from coming to the Bahamas, aimed at discouraging them from bringing business to the Bahamas."

"The most recent example of this was furnished by the Leader of the Opposition himself who was even so bold as to publish in the local newspapers letters which he had written to the National Council of Mayors and to the Commonwealth Secretariat, in each of which he went to very great pains to set forth his political case," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the very subtle message that he was trying to communicate to each of those

foreign bodies was that they ought not to come to the Bahamas," Sen McWeeney declared.

He said that first of all, he does not know what business the Opposition Leader has presenting his political case to foreign bodies "because the only persons who have any say in politics in the Bahamas are the Bahamian people."

"It is for the Bahamian people to weigh the respective cases of the PLP and the FNM and based on that weighing, to decide which government they

want," he said. "No foreign body has anything whatsoever to do with the outcome of politics in the Bahamas."

"So it is to be clearly recognized for what it is. It is a blatant effort to undermine the national interest of the Bahamas. It is a blatant effort to try to bring external pressure to bear on the Bahamas. To my mind, it is a complete betrayal of the democratic ideals which all responsible politicians ought to hold dear and to which they ought to always subscribe," Sen McWeeney said.

He said the FNM will make a vain effort not to have the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference held in the Bahamas in October.

Supposing that the FNM is successful and the conferences move elsewhere, Sen McWeeney said it would mean the loss of hundreds and hundreds and possibly millions of dollars to the local economy.

He said that he would like to know what explanation the FNM would have for the straw vendors, the hotel workers, the bus and taxi-cab drivers and all the individuals who have businesses which prosper from the vast influx of tourists that these kind of conferences bring.

"But you see, it is typical of the FNM thinking. They can never see beyond their noses. All they see is an opportunity to play some cheap tricks on the PLP," he said.

"And if they would only take the time to think through these foolish strategies of theirs, they will see as clearly as we have seen that what they are doing is not really playing politics, but that they are playing with the livelihood of the Bahamian people, they are fooling around with the national interest of the country," he said.

"And they must realize that there must come a time, there must always be occasions, when the interest of the country comes first. Many times the

interest of the country must come over the interest of the PLP, but as far as the FNM is concerned, all they can see is a chance to play games against the PLP," he said.

"They have completely lost sight of the fact that they live in the country and that that country has interests to be protected. And when we talk about protecting the national interest, we talk about protecting the interest of PLPs, FNMs, Vanguard and no matter what we happen to be," Sen McWeeney said.

He said that the strategy that the FNM has embarked upon is aimed at undermining the economy and the interest of all Bahamians.

FNM Pledge

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 May 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs Tuesday night pledged that his Free National Movement party will do everything in its power to promote co-operation with and assistance to efforts of church, civil and social groups in the "great struggle" against the nation's drug problem.

Mr Isaacs, MP for Delaporte, also declared that the moral, mental and physical rehabilitation of the present generation of young people and the generations to follow them, cannot be accomplished unless the Church is encouraged to play a major role in the process.

The Opposition Leader's remarks came as he brought greetings to the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention at its Golden Jubilee conference and congratulated the Convention for the many outstanding contributions to the social and spiritual development of the community.

"One of these continuing contributions over the years has been the convention's well known commitment to the education and overall development of the nation's youth," Mr Isaacs told the convention.

Mr Isaacs said that the Convention's work is and always has been an essential ingredient in the development of the society but that now it has been clearly seen that future efforts must take on a grave and urgent purpose.

"Indeed, it is my belief that if we are to save our society from irreparable moral and social deterioration, then we must look to and give greater support to Christian education," he said.

"I do not think I exaggerate when I say that we are today living through one of the darkest periods in our history," the Opposition Leader said.

"We see all around us the frightful extent of the moral rot which has overtaken us. Drug

trafficking and drug abuse, murder, rape and robbery; and the greatest victims in this sad state of affairs it seems to me, are the youth of our nation," Mr Isaacs said.

"They are the ones who are exploited and who suffer most from the horrors of the drug trade which has flourished in our Commonwealth from one end to the other," he added.

According to Mr Isaacs, the young are the ones most frustrated by unemployment which makes it difficult, if not impossible, for many of them to establish secure new families, the building blocks of the society.

"They are the ones whose moral integrity and perspective have been scandalised by the cynicism, greed, corruption and lawlessness which now pervade our land," he said.

"There must be changes which could open again the doors of opportunity for our people, especially the young ones and we pray that those changes will soon come," the Opposition Leader declared.

But, Mr Isaacs said, we must look to the whole society and especially the churches, to take on some part of the task of the moral, mental and physical rehabilitation of the present generation of young people and the generations which will follow them.

"There is no easy way to accomplish this and I believe it cannot be accomplished unless the church is encouraged to play a major role in the process, and does in fact, play that role," Mr Isaacs said.

"I am sure that your convention will play its part in the great struggle which lies ahead, together with other church groups, and civil and social organizations.

"For my colleagues and myself in the Official Opposition, I pledge that we will do everything in our power to promote co-operation with and assistance to your efforts," he said.

Baptist Leader on Elections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 May 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts] BAPTIST Leader Rev Charles Saunders Tuesday night urged Government to go back to the people for a new mandate and to deal with those "highly-placed" officials implicated in the Drug Commission report.

Rev Saunders, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church and President of the Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, said the public is watching to see if some will be charged and others left unscathed or some be required to retire while others go untouched.

Delivering his address to the Convention's annual conference, Rev Saunders declared that if Government is to curb or curtail the financially profitable menace of drug trafficking, every effort must be made to screen Immigration, Customs and Police officers stationed in the Family Islands.

He said that Baptists believe that the appointment of a House Committee to look into drugs--although the problem was known 11 years ago--is better late than never. "Procrastination, closing our eyes to the drug problem or ignoring the advice of senior police officers, has caused the country to lose a generation," the Baptist leader said.

"I am disturbed over the fact that most of the drug business now goes on in the Family Islands," he said. "If the Government is going to successfully curb or curtail this financially profitable menace, then every effort must be made to screen the Immigration, Customs and Police officers stationed in the Family Islands."

"We need officers with integrity who will not be bought. Higher salaries are not necessarily the answer. Integrity is the answer," he said.

CSO: 3298/756

BAHAMAS

GOVERNMENT SCORED FOR HIRING LOBBYISTS FOR POLITICAL ENDS

FNM Criticism

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 May 85 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts] FNM MP Arthur Foulkes today criticised Government for paying \$360,000 of Treasury funds to an American firm to attempt "the impossible task" of polishing Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's tarnished image.

He said that the Opposition will table questions in Parliament over the matter.

Mr Foulkes was responding to an expose in Saturday's Tribune revealing that Government has signed a six month, \$360,000 contract with Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly of Alexandria, Va. The influential Washington lobbying group has promised to use its Reagan Administration contacts to turn around the Pindling Government's image and mount "a counter offensive to Pindling critics."

Meanwhile, the Saturday article was expected to be one of the main topics of discussion at this morning's Cabinet meeting.

Up until Press time, the Government had maintained a stony silence on the matter.

"Well, well, well, what have we here! The Opposition has been continually maligned inside and outside the House of Assembly for having a public relations company in the United States," Mr Foulkes said.

"Now the Government--for strictly political reasons--is spending the public's money to attempt the impossible task of polishing up the tarnished image of Lynden Pindling and his corrupt administration."

Sir Lynden has been advised by his new public relations firm that the "Congress of the United States can be a tool to achieve its objective."

The lobbying group proposes to deal with the general impressions being promulgated by opponents of the Pindling Government in the US Congress and US Media by developing a programme "which is geared to leading editors of periodicals such as US News and World Report, Time Newsweek..."

Mr Foulkes said that the FNM was particularly amused to learn the names of some of the people the lobbying group may be planning to use, such as Senate Agriculture Committee chairman Jesse Helms who, he described, as "the Dean of ultra right wing politics in the United States." Charles R Black Jr, a senior partner in the lobbying group, has done service stints on Capitol Hill with Helms.

Mr Foulkes said that the lobbying group made its first big mistake by putting on paper who they intend to use in the Reagan Administration. The firm is reported to have close ties to James Baker, secretary of the US Treasury and Attorney General Edward Meese.

Since the contract was signed March 1, the Bahamas was designated a beneficiary country of the Caribbean Basin Initiative; the US and Bahamas Governments launched Operation Blue Lightning, a joint, unprecedented war against Caribbean drug trafficking, and the World Conference of Mayors announced that it would honour Sir Lynden for 18 years of "exemplary" leadership.

Saturday's disclosure is likely to cause more than a little embarrassment to both the Government and the PLP.

Only last Wednesday, PLP chairman Sean McWeeney declared: "No foreign body has anything whatsoever to do with the outcome of politics in the Bahamas."

Did Mr McWeeney know that Government had hired an outside firm to influence the outcome of Bahamian politics? The Tribuen was unable to put this question to him today. Mr McWeeney was out of office when The Tribune telephoned him and he did not return the call by Press time.

Warning to Washington

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 May 85 p 5

[Column by contributing editor Etienne Dupuch: "Pindling Strikes Again!"]

[Excerpts]

ON SATURDAY, The Tribune dropped a political bombshell in this town when it exposed the shocking report that the government has entered into a contract with a well known firm of lobbyists in Washington to boost the Pindling image with the Reagan administration at a cost of nearly a half million dollars of the Bahamian people's money.

Three persons, believed to be working for the lobbying firm, were in Nassau over the long weekend to arrange for the gathering and collation of information on Bahamas-US relations. Is this the beginnings of the cosmetic job on the Pindling administration "image"? If in fact our suspicions are correct, it would be

impossible to do this without twisting the truth in an effort to "make things seem to be what they are not." Among the places they visited was The Tribune office. We can skip this one.

Ordinarily a transaction such as the one exposed by The Tribune would be kept a deep, dark secret. But today in Nassau...and also in Washington....there are people in key positions who realize the evil that has taken possession of this once desirable country. They see the downward path on which our people are being taken by the Pindling government. They know too that the only chance of this evil being checked in its course is by public exposure.

The amazing thing is that major governments don't learn anything from history. They only have to go back to the early years of this century to learn of political machinations that led to two world wars and resulted in the destruction of the British Empire which, with all its faults, was a stabilizing influence in a world that has now gone mad.

The people in Washington only have to look back a few years to realize what brought Castro to power in Cuba, which is upsetting stable influences in this hemisphere and has extended Communist influence to the former Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique in darkest Africa.

They should also reflect on the tragedy of Viet Nam and Cambodia to realize the damaging influence lobbyists in Washington can exercise on a nation which today stands as the only hope for what is left of freedom in a Communist-infiltrated world.

They only have to look at what has happened in Iran to realize the folly of their ways.

They only have to look at Nicaragua to realize the great mistake Washington made in bolstering up the Somoza regime - a corrupt dictatorship - instead of becoming allied with an acceptable opposition and helping to build the country along sound and acceptable democratic lines. Now they have a disturbing war on their hands that is having international repercussions.

In Nassau the situation was moving in a hopeful direction. However, the man who might have helped place American affairs on a sound basis in the Bahamas was moved to Korea and in his place was installed a skilful diplomat with a reputation for "smoothing things over." He has done a good "smoothing" job, but the undercurrent of unrest and disaffection among Bahamians has deepened.

And now the situation has taken its final turn...as it did in Cuba and other areas where America went wrong. At great expense to the Bahamian people, lobbyists have now been retained to turn around the Pindling "image" and as I said before this can only be done by misleading elements in Washington by trying to cover up the evils of the Pindling administration in the Bahamas.

But they won't succeed. The very fact that this whole affair has been "leaked" to this newspaper and that we have had the courage to hand the information on to the Bahamian people clearly indicates how deeply an undercurrent of unrest runs in the Bahamas and how upset Bahamians are with the Pindling administration.

There has to be a change somewhere, somehow, sometime and the longer it is delayed the greater the possibility of America having to face another catastrophe like Cuba or Nicaragua. The Communist-leaning Vanguard is waiting hopefully in the wings.

I would just like to remind the people in Washington, who might be influenced by the machinations of lobbyists hired with money out of the Bahamas Public Treasury, that they cannot lay down with evil and escape being smeared with its dirt.

And I would like to remind people in the Bahamas that, as far as I know, there hasn't been a single solid foreign investor in the Bahamas since the disastrous German experience with the government several years ago. They all shifted to the Cayman Islands and now there is a trend into the Turks and Caicos Islands while the Bahamas steadily decays from within.

Maynard Defense

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 May 85 pp 1, 14

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

GOVERNMENT hired an influential Washington lobbying group to act as a tourism and foreign affairs adviser, Minister of Tourism and Foreign Affairs Clement Maynard said today.

Mr Maynard was responding to questions put to him by The Tribune during an impromptu interview at the House Assembly this morning.

Mr Maynard said that the end result of the six-month, \$360,000 contract would not just be a new image for the Pindling Government, but that the group, Black, Manafort, Stone & Kelly of Alexandria, Va, was hired principally to advise Government on tourism and foreign affairs matters. He added that this would be in the interest of the country; not merely a political party.

Half of an initial, 20-page proposal submitted by the lobbying group, which has close ties to the Reagan Administration, outlines the programme which will be used to polish the tarnished Pindling image, the main thrust of which is aimed at improving US/Bahamian relations.

Mr Maynard said that as far as Government is concerned,

the lobbying group will serve a dual interest and that would be to advise it on matters of tourism and foreign affairs.

"On both counts, it is useful to have lobbyists. We have not had anything quite of this magnitude (but) it is not the first time we have had people represent us (outside the country)," he said.

He pointed out that agencies like the Ministry of Tourism are represented by outside advertising and public relations firms.

Asked how he could reconcile Government's criticism of the Opposition for hiring, Project Masters, a US public relations firm in light of its association with the lobbying group, Mr Maynard answered,

"I don't think there's any analogy at all there. I think that you will find that the Government and the party are two different things and the function of the lobbying firm is to represent the Government, not the party."

He said that the lobbying group was not hired to interfere in local politics, but to deal with persons in the Reagan Administration.

CSO: 3298/757

BAHAMAS

DEFENSE FORCE UNIT BOARDS, SEARCHES PRIVATE BOATS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

ABOUT six pleasure boats were boarded by armed Defence Force marines at Rose Island Saturday during a weekend crackdown off the eastern end of New Providence.

Shortly after 2 pm Saturday, a cloud grey coloured Defence Force craft, T 34, believed to be a confiscated fishing vessel, cruised into Lower Harbour, Rose Island and launched an inflatable rubber dingy.

Four marines, armed with what appeared to be M 16 automatic rifles and sub-machine guns, got in the dingy and "went to every boat," a Bahamian, who was windsurfing in Lower Harbour when the incident began, told The Tribune. At least two of the marines boarded every boat anchored in Lower Harbour at the time.

Lower Harbour is a favourite weekend anchorage for families and other pleasure seekers.

"They arrived, dropped an-

chor and went to every boat. There was nothing suspicious looking about any of the boats," the windsurfer said. There were "no more than" six boats in the anchorage at the time.

A Defence Force marine who was on duty this weekend said the patrols "were just part of a routine search for anything; drugs or illegal immigrants." He said nobody was arrested over the weekend.

The weekend boarding raises the question of whether a law enforcement agent can search a boat unless there is "reasonable suspicion."

Last November, Chief Justice Telford Georges made a possible landmark decision when he could not find any law which permits the search of an individual's property, which could include a car, without his consent unless there was reason to suspect that individual to be in breach of a law.

CSO: 3298/757

BAHAMAS

GRAND BAHAMA PLP COUNCIL MEETS, ELECTS OFFICERS

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 9 May 85 p 1

[Text]

In an effort to further enhance the aims and objects of the Progressive Liberal Party, the Grand Bahama PLP Council held its election of officers recently, a party press release said today.

Elected to head the political organization was former High Rock branch chairman, Reginald Pinder. Other officers include Anne Grant, Vice Chairman; Roland "Chappie" Bartlette, Treasurer; Drexel Pinder, Assistant Treasurer; Preston Cooper Jr., Secretary and Eve Simmons, Assistant Secretary.

The council is comprised of Parliamentary members, Vice Chairmen of the party with regional responsibility for the island, National General Councilors, and the Chairmen and Secretaries of all branches, including Young Liberals, Women's Branches and two persons elected by each of the said branches.

Mr. Pinder, a native of High Rock, said it was ironic that the Council's Executive is made up of members from East End to West End giving the body a truly islandwide formation.

The aims & objectives of the Council are:-

"To promote the party and coordinate its activities throughout the island of Grand Bahama and in connection therewith to maintain a close working relationship with all party branches....

"In association and collaboration with the National General Council of the party to give general directions to the party branches...

"To give practical effect to the party's constitution by coordinating the holding of the Constituency or Joint Constituency Conferences in each and every year... and reporting thereon the National Council and National General Convention.

"Generally to do all things as are conducive to the strengthening of the party... and in particular to provide maximum support to the party and its candidates.

"To maintain a constant vigilance over all matters political, social, which affect the lives and well being of all Bahamians resident on the island ... with particular regard to the interests of the party faithful."

Mr. Pinder pointed out that the next regular meeting would be held Sunday, May 19 at 3.00 p.m. at PLP House, East Sunrise Highway. At that time special committees will be appointed and their responsibilities outlined.

He concluded that the Council maintains an office at PLP House and persons having matters for its attention may do so during normal office hours weekdays.

BAHAMAS

PINDLING, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN DISAGREEMENT

Pindling Remarks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 May 85 pp 1, 13

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling denied last night that the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce has not responded to his challenge and declared that the Chamber is working on a programme on how to improve the business climate in the country.

Addressing Fort Charlotte's mini constituency rally at the T G Glover Junior High School, the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Finance, said that he and Chamber President Alex Knowles have been in constant dialogue all during the year.

The Nassau Guardian reported on April 29, that the Board of Directors of the Chamber had yet to meet in dealing with the challenges thrown out to them by the Prime Minister at the Chamber's March 27 dinner meeting. It quoted Mr Knowles as saying that "the Board of Directors have not met since the meeting." He said the Press would be informed when it did.

"I don't mind what The Tribune says. I don't mind what the FNM says. They have a right to say what they feel because it is politics. So don't mind what they say in the papers," the Prime Minister told over 100 Fort Charlotte constituents attending the mini rally.

"The other day I saw something saying that the Chamber

of Commerce hasn't taken up the challenge the Prime Minister has thrown out to them. That's not correct. The Chamber of Commerce has taken up the challenge," he said.

"The President of the Chamber and myself have been in constant dialogue all year and I know they are working on programmes as to how and what programmes they feel would improve the business climate in the Bahamas, programmes that they feel would create more employment in the Bahamas," the Prime Minister said.

"They have asked me to do some things. I have asked them to do some things. And I think that in due course we are going to be able to agree to do some things, some of them together, some of them on our own," he said.

"I just want to make sure they (Press) get that right. They have responded to the challenge. It is just that you don't throw out the challenge today and expect something to happen tomorrow," he said.

"You are going to have to talk things out in order to have a sensible product developed at the end of the day," the Prime Minister added.

Sir Lynden told his audience that the country is no longer in a social revolution but is in an economic revolution and that is

what the "name of the game" is in 1985, and will be so through 1987.

"We are in the midst of an economic revolution. We are presently in the throes of that revolution," he said. "We have got to burst this country open with work and employment, use the brains, the hands, feet and skills, the young, the middle aged and even some elderly to keep this Bahamas in front where it is."

As Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister said he has been travelling quite a bit in and out of the Bahamas, has seen what others have done and what needs to be done in the Bahamas.

He noted that it was being said that we have got too many hotel rooms and that the new Cable Beach Hotel was going to be a white elephant, but Nassau does not have enough rooms in 1985.

He said that Education Minister Paul Adderley, who is presently Chairman of the Hotel Corporation and who attended last night's rally, has already entered into an agreement with another company who will build another 500-room hotel next door to the "white elephant" in order to try to produce enough rooms for Nassau.

The Prime Minister also said he was fortunate on Monday to have opened the triennial conference of the Bahamas Hotel and Catering Workers Union and was able to get a little

further understanding from them what kind of a year 1985 has been.

"We are in the midst of an economic revolution and we just have to burst the thing open," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the Cabinet has been holding the shortest meetings in its history these days.

"Sometimes we used to be there days, sometimes all day. Nowadays we hardly go past lunch and we are getting more done nowadays than we used to get at any other time," he said.

He said that "when we turned the corner around Christmas 1984," the country's foreign exchange had "already started to come out of the ears" and it is still popping out.

"And as of Monday, on Monday when I checked, our reserves had risen to \$240 million," he said. "That is why I was able to tell the hotel workers on Monday that I believe that by the end of June this year we will pass \$250 million and it is still rising every day."

According to the Prime Minister that amounts to \$1,250 for every Bahamian man, woman and child.

"Now with that kind of foundation we can build on. That is a solid as a rock foundation and that is where we are going to build. That is the foundation from which this economic revolution will be launched," the Prime Minister said.

Chamber Chief's Response

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 May 85 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Excerpts]

BAHAMAS Chamber of Commerce President Alex Knowles - on behalf of the Board of Directors and "with the greatest respect for the Prime Minister" - took exception last night to a statement by Sir Lynden at a March Chamber meeting that the business community has "reaped many benefits" from Governmental policies and expenditures but contributed "relatively little."

"Even if one were to look only at the last three to five years," Mr Knowles told Chamber members at their 1985 annual general meeting, "the evidence of business community contribution to economic growth here in the Bahamas is astounding!"

Mr Knowles' reference to the Prime Minister's statement came at the very beginning of his address to Chamber members in the Gulfstream Room of the Nassau Beach Hotel.

According to Department of Statistics data, building starts for the year ending December 1974 reflected investments of \$122 million by the private sector compared with \$6 million by the public sector.

"And when one looks at the employment figures, the private sector employs 70% of the total work force of the country," Mr Knowles said.

Stating that the evidence of business community contributions to economic growth in the Bahamas is "astounding," Mr Knowles said that in tourism there have always been constant renovations and refurbishing programmes underway.

There have been developments "in the traditional and non-traditional areas" - Cable Beach, Paradise Island, downtown Nassau, Bernard Road, Centreville and Palmdale.

Mr Knowles said the Commonwealth Bank is now 100%

Bahamian in ownership. Scotia Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have constructed "impressive" office buildings and the Royal Bank of Canada has announced plans for "major" construction, listeners were told.

In insurance, "no less than six companies are on the move with new construction."

An "impressive" number of new, privately owned shopping centres have been developed in recent years. "Port New Providence and Arawak Homes lead the way in housing developments" and "any number" of businesses have expanded their facilities, Mr Knowles said, naming seven.

"In particular, the explosion which has transformed a residential area of Palmdale into a thriving business centre, indicates that the private sector is more than willing to do its part in securing the future of our economy."

The list could go "on and on" said the speaker. "Even to include developments by our religious communities - new church buildings abound!".....

Problems for Investors

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Excerpt] OVER recent years, there has been a "distressing" number of incidents in which approved foreign investors become discouraged after months of frustrating attempts to "achieve promised cooperation" from ministries and public corporations, Bahamas Chamber of Commerce President Alex Knowles said last night.

"Their subsequent departure has cost the investors hundreds of thousands of dollars and cost the Bahamian economy millions."

Addressing the Chamber's annual general meeting in the Gulfstream Room of the Nassau Beach Hotel, Mr Knowles said the three major issues identified "time and time again" as restraints to investment and continued economic development

are failure to clearly define immigration policies, lack of "rapid, efficient or coordinated" efforts in investment facilitation and an "inadequate" public education system.

The Chamber President said these are areas "on which the business community should be taking a stand."

"One has heard numerous horror stories about potential investors, again both local and foreign, who have been given the turn-around by various Government departments, mainly due to obvious lack of coordination," Mr Knowles said.

"Where approvals given by one department are negated entirely by another.

"Where approvals, or lack of them, take far too long to be given.

"And the list could go on and on."

The Chamber has gone on record time and time again promoting a central agency for investment promotion and facilitation, listeners were told.

"The Chamber is convinced that the most efficient way to minimise any repetition of such setbacks to the country's development would be the appointment of a Minister of State, with no duty except to expedite the fruition of investors' projects which have been attracted to the Bahamas by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and approved by the Prime Minister's special Foreign Investment Board already set up for the purpose."

Mr Knowles said it is visualised that the Prime Minister would select for the position a "successful Bahamian businessman."

"Let me emphasise the word businessman," he said. "We feel that it takes a businessman to quickly grasp the needs of another businessman and to assign these needs to logical priority of Governmental action."

The vital function of the "Ombudsman" would be to serve as the incoming approved investor's "guide, counsellor and advocate" in all contacts with ministries and public corporations.

"I don't think anyone can differ with the Bahamianisation policy," Mr Knowles said. "It has worked here--as is evident by the development of Bahamian management and expertise in our leading industries.

"But we must now give serious consideration to whether the Bahamas is at a stage where there might be a deficiency in Bahamian expertise available to service continued and growing development," listeners were told.

Current figures indicate that the number of work permits

issued by immigration represents only a small percentage of the total labour force. "Bahamianisation is being taken seriously."

Looking at the statistics, it is "our belief" that most of the holders of these permits are creating jobs within the economy, said Mr Knowles.

BAHAMAS

HOTEL UNION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS; PLP MP WITHDRAWS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] SOUTH Beach MP Edward Francis "Bobby" Glington Thursday bowed out of active trade unionism when he declined nomination to serve for another three years as the General Secretary of the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union.

Elected by acclamation to replace Mr Glington, who is also rumoured to be considering retirement from active politics, was Mr Leonard Wilson.

Also returned unopposed to their posts as President and Vice President respectively were Mr Thomas Bastian and Mr Alexander Thompson.

The nominations were held at Workers House on Thursday, May 16.

Elections for the other union posts to be contested will be held on Friday, May 24, at the various polling sites in New Providence and the Family Islands between 9am and 5pm.

Incumbent Assistant General secretary Quebelle Rolle is being challenged for that position by former Senator Edward "Bob" Gardiner while Miss Arimentha Butler of Holiday Inn battles incumbent trustee Miss Carnetta Burrows of the Nassau Beach Hotel for the post of treasurer.

Seeking the posts of trustee are Jacob Evans, Loews Harbour Cove Hotel; Hubert Grant, Ocean Club; Mizpah Kelly, Holiday Inn Hotel, Freeport, Grand Bahama and incumbent trustee Patrick Bain, also of Freeport.

Commenting on the departure of Mr Glington, who has been the union's General Secretary since the early 1970s, Mr Bastian said that he is personally grateful for Mr Glington's support of the trade union movement in the Bahamas and his contributions to the hotel union.

He said that Mr Glington can never be compensated in monetary terms for all that he has done for the union but will gain the respect of unions through the country.

He called Mr Glington a "pioneer" who as assisted the workers' fight for a better life and better working conditions.

Wishing Mr Glington all the best in the future, Mr Bastian declared that the union will stand ready to assist Mr Glington whenever such a need might arise.

Mr Glington's departure ended the last official link between the PLP Government and the union.

The Hotel Union, then a member of the Trade Union Congress, was a signatory to the controversial Memorandum of Understanding between the PLP Government and the TUC. The Memorandum was signed in 1977 prior to the general elections.

Under the memorandum, three members of the TUC became parliamentarians, two, Mr Glington and Salem MP David Knowles, former President of the Hotel Union, were elected to the House of Assembly while Mr Edward Gardiner was appointed to the Senate.

The memorandum was abrogated by the PLP Government just before the 1982 general elections.

The Hotel Union withdrew from the TUC in 1982.

Mr Knowles declined to run for President in 1982 and Mr Gardiner was dropped from the Senate after the elections.

CSO: 3298/758

12 July 1985

BAHAMAS

PARLIAMENT PASSES ANTI-TERRORISM ACT WITH FNM SUPPORT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 May 85 pp 10, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE Bahamas Wednesday joined other nations in fighting terrorism with the passage of a bill that gave effect to the Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the United Nations in 1979.

The bill, to be called the Suppression of the Taking of Hostages Act, 1985, was moved for its second reading and committal and third reading and passing by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling on behalf of House Leader Clement Maynard, Minister of Tourism and Foreign Affairs.

Supporting the bill, Official Opposition Shadow Foreign Minister Arthur Foulkes, MP for Blue Hills, said that the FNM is happy that the Bahamas is joining other nations in the fight against terrorism.

Starting the debate on the bill during the second reading, the Prime Minister noted that the Bahamas is a signatory to the 1979 Convention and as such, wished to give effect to those portions of the Geneva Convention of 1949 as they apply to the taking of hostages.

Sir Lynden, who is also Minister of Finance, said that the bill is designed to bring the laws in line with the laws of other foreign nations in matters of the crime of taking hostages.

He said that terrorist organizations worldwide use the taking of hostages to coerce governments to do or not to do certain things and also to release prisoners.

He said terrorism also occurs in the form of the hijacking of aircraft or ships at sea.

The Prime Minister said that another form is kidnapping in which demands are made of governments in the countries to which the hostages belong or to which the kidnappers belong.

According to the Prime Minister, the Bahamas had no laws previously with which to deal with such a situation.

"The bill will bring the laws in line with that of other foreign sovereign states," the Prime Minister said.

He said that the bill also does not regard the taking of hostages, for the purposes of extradition, as an offence of a political character.

Although the implications of a kidnapping may be regarded as political, the offence of hostage taking is regarded as a criminal offence, the Prime Minister said.

According to the objects and reasons of the bill, which is in keeping with the obligations of the Bahamas to implement legislation to give effect to the provisions of the convention, the Bahamas with effect from July 4, 1981, became a party to the 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

While specifying that conviction for the offence of hostage taking carries a 15-year jail sentence, the bill also declares that that offence is not perpetrated where the act is

done in the Bahamas by a Bahamian in relation to a Bahamian hostage.

It also makes the offence of hostage taking (including any attempt or act of conspiracy or procuring) an offence for which extradition may be requested by a foreign country which subscribes to the offence of hostage taking.

The bill imposes a restriction on any order for extradition of an offender if proceedings are contemplated or pending against the offender in the Bahamas in respect of the offence of hostage taking.

This restriction is in addition to the other restrictions imposed under the provisions of the Extradition Act and the Fugitive Offenders Act on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, political opinion of the offender or that the offence is punishable with death in the requesting country unlike in the Bahamas.

Further, the bill imposes a requirement of the Attorney General's consent to any prosecution for the offence and makes provision for the proof of certain incidental matters arising upon an extradition request.

It also excludes the provisions of any other law relating to the issues of jurisdiction and the requirement of a consent to the institution of proceedings where a ship or aircraft is concerned in the offence of hostage taking.

The bill provides that the offence of hostage taking shall not be regarded for the purposes of extradition as offence of a political character.

It provides that the legislation, save in so far as specifically provided, does not abrogate the provisions of any other law or of Article 12 of the Geneva Conventions.

BOLIVIA

NATION PLANS OWN MONEY PRINTING PRESS

La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 May 85 p 7

[Text] Sucre, 27 (HOY)--The Central Bank of Bolivia is in a position to satisfy the needs of the people as regards the money supply, said the General Manager of the Central Bank, Jaime Castro Zubieta. He also said that the inflation the nation is experiencing is so serious that certainly within a short period of time bills will have to be printed of higher denominations than the present ones; and at the present time all the technical studies required for the installation of a national money printing press are ready, the decision being in the hands of the board of directors of the Central Bank.

The statements of the Central Bank manager were made known in Sucre, when he visited the Supreme Court of Justice of Bolivia to inquire about the disposition of the annulment request he had presented against the National Comptroller's Office, which proposes to audit the activities of the Bank, the country's money-issuing authority.

Castro Zubieta said the Central Bank will accept the Supreme Court's decision, despite the opposition there might be from the labor unions, because the bank is a national entity that respects the laws and that unfortunately has had its prestige damaged at the international level by the campaign unleashed against the Bank as a result of the plan to audit it. He said that in his opinion this is not justified since such a task would be the responsibility of another organization, the Comptrollership Division. "We are sure of our position and the Supreme Court will decide in our favor," added Castro Zubieta, who arrived in Sucre together with the Administrative Manager, Hugo Rocha.

The General Manager denied at the same time that the new building purchased in Santa Cruz had been bought without following the legal requirements in force in the country, and said he regretted that permission had not been given to buy a cargo plane in view of the usefulness such a craft would have had to meet the Bank's needs in the more distant towns considering the lack of capacity of the LAB airline.

Finally, he said that a new office of the Central Bank will be installed in Sucre when the necessary technical studies have been completed. He said

that at the present time a building is being sought that might serve as the seat of the Financial Fund for the Development of the River Plate Basin as well as for the operation of that new regional office, which could channel to the benefit of Chuquisaca its own and other resources that are held in trust belonging to USAID, IDB, CAF [Andean Development Corporation] and the Andean Reserve Fund.

12856

CS0: 3348/710

BOLIVIA

RAPID ECONOMIC EROSION REPORTEDLY UNCONTROLLABLE

La Paz ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 May 85 p 5

[Text] Pharmacies Have Closed Their Doors Claiming to be Out of Stock

As a result of the national economy being out of control, alarming speculation was to be found today in the prices of all kinds of articles, ranging from daily needs purchases to clothing items and other kinds of goods.

In a tour through different places in the city a newsman from this evening daily newspaper was able to verify the exaggerated price increases, the new exchange rate of the Bolivian peso against the dollar and other economic measures.

At the Bolivar, Camacho and Lanza markets beef was being sold at only a few shops at prices of 280 thousand to 300 thousand pesos per kilo. The butchers find ways of evading the perfunctory supervision of the city police and the members of the women's police brigade.

Potatoes have risen in less than a week from 200 thousand pesos the arroba to 600 thousand pesos.

Vegetables and greens also have high prices and housewives have to go from one place to another searching out the lowest possible price. "It's all torture and anguish," one lady told the press.

Food Stores

The traditional food stores on Murillo Street are out of stock and several of them have their doors closed. They are waiting for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to set new prices.

It was reported that sugar will cost about 2.85 million pesos per quintal until the new crop is in. An official source said that the amount is being negotiated at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and that the final price will be published today.

At present there are no official prices for sugar, rice, edible oil, pig's fat or noodles. As a result speculation is rampant in the retail market.

In this regard a very opportune remark was made by several persons who spoke to the press: Why doesn't the economic cabinet and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce check with producers the effect on costs of 33.3 percent devaluation of the peso since 16 May before measures are taken? In this way, they said, the victimization of the public by the uncontrollable speculation of merchants might be avoided.

Pharmacies

Most pharmacies have closed their doors, due to lack of stock and because they are awaiting new prices. The so-called people's pharmacies lack the necessary products to provide their services to the satisfaction of people needing medicines.

Clothing

The clothing business shows a marked difference in prices compared with last week. The increases place these articles out of the reach of a worker receiving the minimum wage. Some stores prefer to keep their doors shut.

A tie that could be bought for not more than 1.2 million pesos has doubled in price; the same thing has happened with shirts, shoes and other indispensable articles.

12856

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12 July 1985

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

CHIEF MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT ISSUES

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 27 Apr 85 pp 1, 2, 11, 15

[Interview with Chief Minister Cyril B. Romney by Vernon Pickering in chief minister's office; date not specified]

[Excerpts]

Have you been "upstairs" lately? If you haven't, please do so. Offices and departments have been totally renovated and modernized. The first impression is genuinely positive and you finally feel that these are the chambers of the Chief Minister and, credibly enough, you get the sense of an organized and efficient structure.

It is only 9 am but the Chief Minister is already busy with telephone calls and officials; however, for some reason, you do not get the impression of bureaucracy and stuffiness. In a short while we are admitted and the mahogany door is opened.

Our questions to the Chief Minister, Cyril B. Romney, revolve around subjects of great interest at this moment. Romney's replies are straightforward, gentlemanly, accurate and detailed. We touch on a rainbow of topics; from the recent controversial amendment to the Social Security Ordinance to gambling boats, from the archaeological finds of the "San Ignacio" wreck to the possibilities of development on

Anegada, from the chaotic situation of the traffic in Tortola to the disappointing tourist season, from the project of closing Main Street to the traffic to the problems of Immigration.

I.S. — What is your impression about all the noise made by the Opposition about the Social Security Ordinance Amendment?

ROMNEY — I referred to it the other day in my discourse in the House as not only noise but "hot air" and I am surprised that responsible people, political leaders of the community, would go to the lengths they did to try to discredit the Government on an issue that should really not have been an issue at all.

As you know, statutory bodies are Government organizations set up to operate outside of Government as for example the Development Bank of the V.I., the Tourist Board, the Electricity Corporation, the Recreation Fund, etc. These are called statutory bodies. At the moment, if they want to borrow money from the Social Security Fund and the

Social Security Board want to lend money to them, we have no way of interfering as a Government, but the Social Security Board in its wisdom requested on one occasion, when an application was made (not for a loan but) for the Board to make a Certificate of Deposit (CD) with the Development Bank of the V.I. The Board agreed to the request but only if the Government would offer a guarantee — and since there was no Legislation which provided the Government with the authority to grant such a guarantee, then there had to be amending legislation. And this is all that this simple Bill was designed to do. Now, I think that the matter has been discussed, the air should really clear on this matter.

I.S. — Has the media been fair in handling the statements made by the Opposition without giving a chance to the Legislator to express his point of view?

ROMNEY — I do not believe that the media was fair in handling the matter at all.

I.S. — Is there a specific reason why the question on gambling boats was raised again at the recent Legislative Council?

ROMNEY — It was really unnecessary, but in fairness the question was proposed at the previous meeting of Council and it was not dealt with because the submission came too late. This particular question was among those asked by the Member for the 7th District. He had an option: either drop the question entirely or bring it to the next meeting of Council. He chose the latter alternative. This question was not out of order, but had I been invol-

ved in the asking of questions on a matter on which I wanted information, if the subject was a dead one and passage of time had eroded the effectiveness of the question I would not have asked that.

I.S. — Many businesses and hotels seem to be disappointed with the Tourist Season. What is the perspective for next Winter?

ROMNEY — I am disappointed as a businessman and as a Minister for Tourism for what appears to have been a low level of activity during the last tourist season. I will not know for sure until all the statistics have been gathered what the exact performance was, but I would say on the face of it there were not as many people around as one would normally expect. Of course, tourism has many faces, and while we may see a slowing down of activity in one area, there could be increases in others. I would like to call specific attention to the cruise ships' activity that has taken place during the last season. It was greater than any time in the past and certainly that is one area where larger numbers did, in fact, visit the BVI. People in a very high income bracket are coming through Road Town on these small cruise ships. These are people with a propensity to shop and this is shown by their concern on a few occasions when in Road Town the shops were closed for holidays. This area of activity has shown remarkable progress and a very strong indication that there will be further growth in this area in the next season coming up. For this season the land-based tourism does appear to me,

in Tortola, to have been not so good. In Virgin Gorda things appear to have gone very well.

I.S. — Having a strong dollar in the US, don't you think that that is playing a major role in tourism in the BVI?

ROMNEY — The strength of the dollar at home in the US does give incentive to people to travel. Where the problem arises, as far as the BVI are concerned, is the fact that the strength of the dollar in Europe is so high. The strength of the dollar versus the other European currencies is so great that there is almost a pull on the part of those countries attracting Americans to those areas. They do take the opportunity from time to time with a strong currency to visit the areas where the currency will buy more. This has had a disastrous effect on visits to the dollar areas such as the BVI. But there are other islands in the Caribbean, of course, that have soft currencies and have been experiencing increases. The USVI have done well and they are just next door and they spend US dollars; but it is true that they are still recovering from the disastrous experiences of half a decade ago. The strength of the dollar, however, has militated against the presence of more tourists in the BVI this year; but I regard this as a short term phenomenon: as soon as the currencies stabilize, people who would have gone to Europe for the once in a lifetime experience will return to their traditional playgrounds.

I.S. — In a way you can say that you have come to the Chief Ministership in a diffi-

cult moment?!!

ROMNEY — That is one way of putting it, but I don't regard myself as a victim of the situation. What I want to demonstrate is that I can come to grips with the problem and do something about it. In fact, I have had discussions with the Chairman of the Tourist Board and the new Director of Tourism and following my visit to Bermuda, quite recently, I discovered there that tourism is based on Summer activities (Winter in Bermuda is cold). So, what I think we should do now is developing programmes that would attract people here on a year-round basis. One way of doing it, Bermuda has had impressive results going after the youth market. We have neglected it entirely in the BVI as we have been concentrating on luxury tourism. We must now recognize the fact that we have achieved a new plateau and we must focus our attentions in other directions if we want tourism to be meaningful. I have discussed this with the Chairman of the Tourist Board and the Director of Tourism and we all feel that the matter of targeting the youth market in the US and Canada in particular should be given serious consideration.

I.S. — What about package deals that may encourage more tourists to come to the BVI?

ROMNEY — We tend to cater to FIT travel, that is a sort of travel where a man and his wife go to a travel agent, they buy a ticket to the area, they make arrangements through their travel agent for a room in a hotel in the BVI. They come down

here, they are picked up by a taxi and they are taken to the hotel and that satisfies the FIT's requirements and they refer to that as a "package". That is a mini-package. I agree that more imaginative packaging should be looked after. I feel very strongly that there is not intensive packaging, the type of packaging that one associates with European travelling. This, of course, will require the total cooperation of hotels in the area.

I.S. — Summer is neglected a lot where tourism is concerned, is there something that can be done to uplift the Summer?

ROMNEY — Don't underestimate the attraction of the Festival for example, and there are other attractions like the BVI Spring Regatta, later on the Wooden Boats gather at Jost Van Dyke, then the Air BVI Interline Regatta. I think we can continue to build on these and try to come out with more, but I believe that the big thing for the future is targeting the youth market. The youth is on vacation during the Summer months. I believe we can get a constant flow of visitors if we go after that market.

I.S. — There is a black middle class now in the USA that could be targeted.

ROMNEY — You are echoing my own words. This is an area where the Tourist Board has been directed to explore and consider setting up a travel motivated service in the heart of Black America: Atlanta - Georgia, for this very reason. I know that there is a growing level of prosperity among black Americans particularly out of

the South where we could, perhaps, attempt to make serious inroads into that market. We are working on it.

I.S. — Anegada seems neglected, is there a way your Government plans to change this situation?

ROMNEY — Anegada is a special island and Anegada has generated special problems. As you know, there were several projects in the past, large scale projects that were attempted on Anegada without any success. However, this produced some useful infrastructure such as storage sheds, a rudimentary jetty, a small hotel constructed, a landing strip which has been filled. All these things came about as a result of the initial attempts of the past developers. I believe that the time has come for Government to concentrate on not only providing improvement in the infrastructure for Anegada but trying, at least, to find one medium scale development project which could provide employment opportunities for the people of that island. Insofar as Government infrastructure is concerned, we are always limited and constrained by insufficient funds and this is coming at a time when the British Funding of the development of the BVI is receding at a rapid pace for two reasons. One: Britain is cutting down on the number of grants made to anybody, anywhere, including the Colonies, more so the Colonies. And the value of the pound in which the grants are made is losing day by day. So, even if the grants stood regular there would be still fewer dollars. Then, of course, I inherited a bad situation when

I came into this chair as Chief Minister. A time when the economy was beginning to move towards a recession. We don't generate the surpluses that were possible under previous Governments. I am, nevertheless, trying my best to see what I can do for Anegada and I can now say that the British Government has approved funds for rebuilding the jetty, and the estimated amount has been increased considerably and I feel reasonably confident that in the next few months, if not weeks, we should be in a position to start a substantial project to renovate and complete the jetty in Anegada. That will put tens of thousands of dollars in immediate circulation on that island. I am glad that we can do something like this; but the prospects of finding somebody, some outfit to undertake a private development project on Anegada will be explored.

I.S. — What about a proper airport for Anegada? The geographic situation seems favourable.

ROMNEY — From a technical standpoint Anegada is perfect for a large airport, but it has to make economic sense. Nobody will go and build an airport in Anegada in the hope that it will be economically viable, unless there were support services and businesses on the island. There is no point in going out there and try to build an airfield in order to service the BVI. It does not make economic sense either, especially when you have jumbo capability airfield in St. Thomas. The US Government is spending nearly \$100 million to put that airport down there

and it will serve the BVI as well as anything else. There is also San Juan and St. Croix with large international capability airfields and to consider spending the kind of money that it will take to bring jet airplanes on the island of Anegada cannot be sustained in economic terms. I.S. — What about expanding Beef Island airport?

ROMNEY — I will lead you into a secret. The Government is, at this moment, awaiting a proposal for the establishment of a service in the BVI, hopefully, out of Beef Island before the end of the year that will give us non-stop capability between Beef Island and Miami. The technology is already available. I am advised that the runway in its present condition can provide that capability, I am also advised that the funding interests are all around us and I am now waiting on the outcome of a study that has been going on for some time now from which will come a proposal for the BVI Government. Of course, I would not want to allow the existing infrastructure at Beef Island to remain as it is. I would like, then, to take the opportunity of convincing my colleagues that we ought to extend the land for the runway, improve the terminal building and, provided the sums add up and there is every indication that they would, I would say that this is definitely a very positive perspective. The prospects of the direct capability between Beef Island and Miami are great. Imagine what that will do to tourism. I.S. — Is this possible without extending the runway at Beef Island?

ROMNEY — It is possible as

it is but I would hope that we would take the opportunity of such an advance to extend the runway to a reasonable length. This will increase the safety margin, the comfort and the confidence.

Continued next week.....

[4 May 1985 issue of THE ISLAND SUN unavailable to JPRS.]

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

MADURO COMMENTS ON LABOR CODE, PARTY ROLES, STATUS

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 18 May 85 pp 1,]

[Interview with Minister of Labor and Natural Resources Conrad Maduro by Vernon Pickering; date and place not specified]

[Text]

Hon. Conrad Maduro, Minister for Labour and Natural Resources in the present government, Minister in a previous government, outstanding member of the United Party, down-to-earth politician, extremely popular with his electorate and especially with the working class, during the past 18 months Hon. Conrad Maduro has been carefully watched by his colleagues and adversaries. This special attention is due to the fact that Hon. Maduro is hardly a man for compromises, far from it.

He is outspoken, concise, determined to achieve his goals; his life-style and his political beliefs are one. The questions were not pre-arranged since we had no idea of when it would have been possible to get the interview; what follows is, therefore, a friendly conversation between two BV Islanders.

We believe that both questions and answers make very stimulating reading and they will prove quite interesting and enlightening.

I.S. — Do you feel that the

Labour Code needs some updating or amendment, and if so, what kind of changes would you propose?

MADURO — Personally, I haven't given any serious thought to the amending or updating of the Labour Code of course, there are those who feel that it should be amended in certain areas. Some employees feel that certain sections should be amended whereas employers feel that certain sections should be amended, but according to my knowledge, the Labour Code had never really been put in operation as it should be put. Nevertheless, I believe that there can be certain minor amendments due to the fact, for example, that the Code originally did not envision the Social Security Scheme and this may call for some minor revisions.

I.S. — Many key positions such as manager and deputy manager are not given to BV Islanders, why is that?

MADURO — This is something of great concern to me, as to why certain positions are not given to BV Islanders. As a matter of fact, it is rum-

oured that certain qualifications are lifted over the heads of BV Islanders to avoid employing them. This is something that I am looking into and if it is found to be so, I will correct the situation.

I.S. — How do you envision development with a population that has never increased in number in the last 200 years?

MADURO — I am not sure if the population did not increase over the past 200 years, but I know that in my time it had been constant up to 1960, around 7000 people, but lately it rose to about 12000. I believe this is due to an influx from the other islands and elsewhere (Europe and the U.S.); but the development in a country is mostly geared to suit the inhabitants with respect to employment and if we had certain resources, a lot of oil, etc., then you can see it being difficult for the 12000 inhabitants to develop it. You will have to bring in people from other countries to carry on a development, but right now, most of our young people when they get to the age of leaving school go abroad (U.S., U.S.V.I.), some of them do not return and in that way I must say it would be difficult to develop the BVI.

I.S. — Land is becoming more and more precious; is there a possibility of making more land available?

MADURO — It depends on exactly how you view it, because physically the land would remain the same size; but I guess you mean in terms of use. I think there really should be a land use plan and development should be restricted to certain areas

and just geared in terms of land area and labour force because we are only 58 square miles and if we are not very cautious, in a short while, there will be no such thing as a BV Islander.

I.S. — The recent Beach Ordinance that you have introduced was most welcome. What measures are you going to adopt to make sure that the law is not violated since the police seem to have problems just with something as simple as the traffic?

MADURO — That is a very interesting question, because having legislation and no administration, no policing of it, is worthless. So the concern there is really shared. But to say exactly how it would be policed, I am not really in a position to say whether or not it would be, because a lot of laws are in the "books" and they are made less effective because they are not administered. However, it is hoped that with careful watching from the Ministry here we will be able to find out if there are weaknesses and if any amendment in regard to policing etc., may be made. It is very important to protect the beaches from what is going on. As a matter of fact, we are considering right now the giving of a licence to a company which will include BV Islanders, mostly, (maybe one or two outsiders) to dredge sand off-shore so that sand will be made available for those especially in the construction field and avoid the destruction of the beaches.

I.S. — Do you think that the United Party will consolidate its positions during the next elections?

MADURO — This is a diffi-

cult question. We can say at this point that those of us who are sincere to the Territory as a whole have got to keep on working towards consolidating the position with regards to saving the Territory from going off the reach, or without the reach, of BV Islanders. But as it stands right now, we do not have any real strong party: what you call a united group of people who are prepared to share political responsibilities. I think, for quite some time, that politics are going to suffer, to the detriment of BV Islanders, unless we can get people interested to understand that party-politics is a togetherness, is a 24-hour-a-day job, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year, and not a seasonal thing like when you are having elections. It's actually an institution like a school, a college, university, and at the same time it can be like a lab where you carry out experiments in order to find better ways to accomplish what you might have in mind as to the best interests of our concern. So, it is actually dealing with a science as a whole.

I.S. — Is the present government really carrying out what was promised in the United Party Manifesto?

MADURO — I feel that, as experienced in other countries, and experienced in our last elections, the mistake as they tied it in with the questions I just answered, is due to the fact that a party majority was not elected and a coalition had to be formed. This is something we were afraid of and it happened; and just as I anticipated that we would have some difficulty, we are experiencing some difficulty, but not

really beyond control. It would retard progress, but I must say that the implementation of the Party's platform or Manifesto, is being carried out, because right now, I think, we are making progress in the field of Agriculture. Yesterday, we reached something like over 500 pounds of cucumbers at Paraguita Bay, and as you know, it is our intention to make the agriculture a revenue-making department rather than a continuous liability to the government. We also, on May 2nd, opened the abattoir and this could also be a revenue-making concern for the government. The department will now be able to render greater services to the farmers and carry out farming at a more scientific level and we will be able to curb some of our problems such as conserving water. Additionally, I must say that we are also making strides to the social end of it, which is being done by Mr. Wheatley and you see we are a good way on with the "old people's home" and we are hoping that as soon as it will be completed to set up the citizen's movement action, or whatever it will be called; I think Mr. Wheatley is also doing a good job in order to bring education level to the standard required. What has been happening in the past: the children have been graduating and not being able to fit into the private sector, so as to fit into the various positions, and I think what Mr. Wheatley is doing when this is completed, children will be able to come out of school and will be able to fit better into the labour market here in the BVI. So I must say that, even though for the

difficulties I have stated, now the members of the BVI United Party who are concerned at making every effort in order to carry out the Party's Manifesto and I hope by the end of the term, if we are not completed with all that is in the Manifesto, at least we will be very close to accomplishing most of our promises. We are hoping in the next few weeks to make Anegadians on a level with other BV Islanders that would become landowners, we will be able to give them land so that they will be able to better themselves financially. We are making some strides also in the line of fisheries. The BVI Fishing Company, which is solely owned by government and which has been another liability, we are seeing some promising improvements, and is also becoming a revenue-making body for government, because during the past month or so, we gave ten boats fishing licences to fish for sword fish and, according to the knowledge we have been able to acquire, the San Juan Fishery told us that they have been delivering fish in San Juan at a rate of about 5000 pounds per boat per week, which is very great and as a result, the BVI Fishing Co., was able to get fish free of cost from these boats which also gives us an earning of over 17000 dollars. With a little assistance we would be able to muster our fleet and instead of depending on outsiders to continue, we hope we will be able to make the most of all that catch for ourselves.

I.S. — What do you think about more autonomy for this Territory?

MADURO — What I have gathered thus far is that Britain, whenever possible, will give independence but, in my opinion, this is something to which I am opposed. I opposed it in the past and I will oppose it for as long as is possible. But if it is the intention of Britain to cut us loose then I don't have any control on it. I don't see how a small Territory like the BVI would be able to stand on its own. I feel in some form or another it should remain either connected with Britain, the United States, or some large power even though we maintain a certain amount of self-government, internal self-government. But with these big nations imposing their will on us and with the number of our seeking people who ought to become powerful, you can always have uprisings, etc., which this country will not be able to handle. And I think it would not be in the best interest of this country to actually attain independence.

I.S. — If we were to become independent the status of our currency would have to be cleared or, maybe, negotiated with the U.S. Government?

MADURO — This is something I haven't anticipated, but again, America being one of the world's leading nations this would have international political implications. I think America may, or may not. Looking at it in the true sense of independence we would have to have our currency, which means, it goes without saying, that the American dollar would probably disappear as the official currency of the BVI. We have to start as a nation and we will have to have our own

flag, our own trade balance of payments etc.

I.S.s— Must it be necessarily like that, don't you see the possibility of some political compromise to be made with America to continue to use their currency and become independent still?

MADURO — It depends on what these concessions will be. Because it depends on how great the concessions are, it would become like going from one nation, which is Britain, to another nation, which is America, the way I see it, I could be wrong. It wouldn't be possible to become a nation and still use another nation's currency. I guess we have been allowed to use it because of the close connections between Britain and the U.S. and being a dependent territory of Britain I believe this is the reason why we have the privilege we now have.

CSO: 3298/765

GRENADA

GAIRY ADDRESSES PUBLIC RALLY, REVIEWS PAST ACTIONS

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 18 May 85 pp 7-10

[Text] I Had No 'Bad' Books

Sir Eric Gairy, Political Leader of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) paid tribute on May 12th to the propaganda organisation of the Peoples Revolutionary Government, the Government of Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) which overthrew Sir Eric in 1979.

"The propaganda that Mr Bishop and his cohorts made was so damned good," he said, "that I would have believed it myself when I saw what he wrote and heard what he said if I did not know myself as well as I did."

Sir Eric was speaking at a GULP public meeting called to protest the withdrawal of U.S. Military Forces from Grenada.

He told a crowd of some 4 to 5 hundred of his followers that, when he was "in exile" in the United States after his overthrow, he had received information that, three years before the revolution, "people came from abroad" to study his (Gairy's) behaviour so the propaganda could be suitably fashioned after the overthrow.

One of the charges made by the PRG was that Sir Eric had practiced obeah (witchcraft) in a special room at his official residence. Sir Eric said the PRG propaganda had said "bad" books had been found in that room but, recently, two books found in that room had been returned to him and they are both Bibles.

"No average, intelligent man would have crosses and crucifixes and Bibles in his room and have obeah and witchcraft in his room," he said.

Three days after the revolution of March 13th 1979, the Press was invited to inspect what was called "Gairy's obeah room" at his official residence and did find what appeared to be two small altars on which were crucifixes, statues of saints and rosaries.

On those altars also were balls of indigo, pieces of saltpetre and small bags of white powder.

There were also several Bibles in the room together with other books which suggested withcraft. Among these were "The Truth About Withcraft" by Hans Holzer, "Journeys Out of the Body" by Robert Monroe and "Hostage to the Devil" by Malachi Martin.

Among the books also was "The Twelve Blessings--The Cosmic Concept as Given by the Master Jesus." This book is written by Dr George King, "chairman and founder of the Aetherius Society," and in it Dr King claims to be the "mental channel" through which Jesus Christ "gave the sacred truths known as the twelve blessings."

Dr King says that at 12:30 am on January 19th 1959, his mother, Mrs Mary King, was picked up by a spacecraft commanded by a being known as "Mars Sector 8" and was taken "hundreds of miles from earth in the purple magnificence of star-studded space" where the spaceship entered a mother craft and there Mrs King met "The Great Master, Jesus, himself."

His mother, Dr King says, took with her a book in which had been inscribed the "12 blessings" revealed to Dr King by Jesus. Jesus asked for the book, Dr King says, and Mrs King saw him bless it, "place it in a beautifully ornate box and take it away with him."

Also seen in the special room at Sir Eric's official residence were two black robes, a multicoloured robe of blue, yellow and green and a cape of blue, green and orange fastened at the front with a bone brooch shaped like a cow.

Other paraphernalia included a Bishop's staff, a headdress in the shape of a cross, a wooden sword, incense sticks and a great number of candles of various colours.

Sir Eric told the meeting that, when he had been asked in an interview whether he practiced withcraft, he had replied that different people call different things by different names.

"I do something at least twice a day," he said. "I do that thing on my knees and I call it prayer."

Gairy Gives "Mongoose" Explanation

"If any of you can find one person employed by my Government or by me as a 'Mongoose Secret Police,' if you can't find one but can find the house in which he lived, if you can't find that, but can find the grave in which he was buried, I will give you half of my property."

Sir Eric Gairy, political leader of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), told a public meeting on May 12th that, before his return "from exile" in the United States last year, he had thrown out this challenge to North American journalists who had questioned him relative to the report that he had hired and commanded a gang of criminals to terrorise his opponents.

Sir Eric said hundreds of reporters have since visited Grenada and none had come to claim his property. He also gave an explanation of what the "Mongoose Gang" was and how it came into being.

In the early 1970s, the Political Leader said, his trade union had secured jobs for some of its members with the World Health Organisation which, at that time, was implementing a mongoose eradication programme in Grenada.

Some of these persons employed in the programme "liked their little card-playing, drinking, fighting and beating their women," Sir Eric said, and, when they misbehaved publicly, people identified them as "The Mongoose Gang" because they were employed in the mongoose eradication programme.

"Journalist Alister Hughes started to write, 'Gairy's Union Mongoose Gang,'" Sir Eric said, "but, after a couple of years, he thought that was not biting sufficiently so he said 'Gairy's Mongoose Gang.'"

After Maurice Bishop came on the scene, the phrase was turned around into "Gairy's Mongoose Secret Police" Sir Eric said, and this "went around the world like wild fire" because Bishop had the money to pay.

"That's the difference between the communist countries and the democratic countries," he said. "When I asked England or Canada or America to give me some money to fight communism, they didn't pay much mind, but the money Bishop got in a year we didn't have in 20 years."

Sir Eric's explanation of the start of the "Mongoose Gang" is in conflict with findings of the Duffus Commission set up in 1973 to probe the breakdown of law and order and police brutality in Grenada.

That commission found Sir Eric was personally responsible for the recruitment and control of this gang, officially called the "Police Aids," and that the qualification for service in the gang was "known disposition for violence and lawlessness."

The gang was without discipline or training, the commissioners said, and they inflicted "unspeakable atrocities" on Grenadians.

As recommended by the commissioners, Sir Eric disbanded the Police Aids/Mongoose Gang. In their recommendation, the commissioners also commented on and questioned the advisability of Sir Eric's subsequent establishment of a Defence Force, "especially as it is known that former Police Aids are now members of the Defence Force."

A White Paper published by the Gairy Government said the commissioners had "gone out of their way" to make this comment.

"This question was not within their Terms of Reference nor their competence," The White Paper says.

Sir Eric told the meeting on May 12th that the Bishop regime had spread very effective propaganda during Sir Eric's absence from the island after his overthrow, and he did not blame "the young boys" for believing it.

"I want them to know that I love them," he said. "Bishop did not love them. Bishop brought Cubans to the island and put those Cubans above them."

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GRENADA

OPPOSITION MP HITS POLICE; COMMISSIONER RESPONDS

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 18 May 85 pp 10-11

[Text] Mr Marcel Peters, leader of the opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives, has complained of what he calls the "inhuman" and "barbarous" behaviour of the Grenada Police in an incident alleged to have taken place on April 27th in a district on the east coast of the island.

In an interview on April 30th Mr Peters told NEWSLETTER some persons had come to him with the report that a party of policemen, accompanied by an ex-member of the defunct People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), had burned their dwelling houses together with their clothing, jewelry and other possessions.

"I went to have an on-the-spot check on what happened," Mr Peters said, "and I saw that 5 houses had been burned."

These houses, he said, varied in size from about 14' by 12' to 12' by 7' and were made of a variety of materials including wood, galvanized iron and bamboo. The houses were on "family land," Mr Peters said, and garden crops were grown in the area.

The leader of the opposition said the owners of the destroyed houses told him the police had said they were looking for marijuana, and Mr Peters understands that some marijuana was found. However, he feels that, if the law has been violated, the proper course is to charge the persons involved.

"Initially, there were 2 policemen and the ex-member of the PRA on the scene," Mr Peters said, "but they found they needed reinforcements so they sent the ex-PRA men back in the police jeep to the police station to collect more policemen."

Five persons had been arrested and released on bail, he said, but he was concerned over the behaviour of the police in this incident and he had spoken that day with the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"I have been told an investigation is going on," Mr Peters said, "but I want this investigation to be done immediately because it is very annoying that poor people should be treated in this manner."

Queried that day, Commissioner of Police Mr Russel Toppin confirmed that a party of policemen carried out a marijuana raid on April 27th, following which, 5 persons were arrested and charged.

"The police found a field of marijuana which they burned," Mr Toppin said, "and it is alleged that some of the huts in which the marijuana is cured were destroyed in the process."

The huts may have caught fire, the commissioner said, and an investigation was then being made into the incident.

Mr Toppin said he does not believe the huts were used as dwelling places. One woman had complained that she lived there, but there were several other huts which he does not think could have been used as residences.

The commissioner confirmed that an ex-PRA did accompany the police party on the marijuana search. The police welcome information from anyone who can help them to detect criminal offences, he said, but he thought the police had been very indiscreet in this matter.

"What was wrong," Mr Toppin said, "is that they allowed this informer to lead the police party to the area and, when they needed reinforcements, they allowed the informer to drive the police vehicle back to base to get assistance."

The commissioner said it was indiscreet to allow such a person to drive the police vehicle, but it was an emergency and the sergeant in charge of the police party thought it best to remain on the scene to insure that the marijuana was not reaped.

Mr Toppin regretted the incident, he said, the sergeant has been reprimanded for the wrong use of his discretion and a full inquiry was being made into all the circumstances.

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GRENADA

DETAILS OF BLAIZE BUDGET, PETERS' CRITICISM REPORTED

Tax Provisions

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 27 Apr 85 pp 4-6

[Text] Presenting Grenada's 1985 budget on April 26, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Herbert Blaize, outlined a number of measures which, he said, are designed to bring relief to Grenadians.

The first is a reduction on the export duty charged on agricultural produce which reduction he said is of the order of 25%.

"We have been able to do this by simplifying the present export rate structure from an ad valorem to a specific charge," he said, "so that farmers will gain fully from any increase in prices without having to share with government such increased benefits."

The Prime Minister set out the new rates as follows:

Nutmegs	reduced from 19¢ per pound to 15¢ per pound
Mace	reduced from \$1.29 per pound to 97¢ per pound
Cocoa	reduced from 50¢ per pound to 38¢ per pound
Bananas	reduced from 15¢ per 100 pounds to 11.25¢ per 100 pounds.

The government hopes to progressively eliminate the export duty tax over a period of four years, the Prime Minister said.

Mr Blaize dealt next with income tax and said it has been decided to increase the basic tax free allowance from \$1,500.00 to EC\$2,500.00.

He announced also the following increased allowances:

Spouse allowance	increased from \$600.00 to \$1,200.00
1st child allowance	increased from \$650.00 to \$1,000.00
2nd child allowance	increased from \$650.00 to \$ 800.00
3rd child allowance and onwards	increased from \$350.00 to \$ 500.00

"In addition," the Prime Minister said, "the present structure which provides for eleven 'bands' has been reduced to only six 'bands' with a threshold moving from zero dollars to \$1,000.00"

The old structure of eleven 'bands' was:

For the first	\$1,000.00	10%
For the next	2,000.00	15%
For the next	2,000.00	20%
For the next	2,500.00	25%
For the next	2,500.00	30%
For the next	2,500.00	35%
For the next	5,000.00	40%
For the next	5,000.00	50%
For the next	5,000.00	55%
For the next	5,000.00	60%
On excess over	30,000.00	65%

The new structure of six 'bands' is:

On the first	\$1,000.00	0%
On the next	\$1,001.00 to \$ 6,000.00	10%
On the next	\$6,001.00 to \$11,000.00	15%
On the next	\$11,001.00 to \$16,000.00	25%
On the next	\$16,001.00 to \$21,000.00	35%
On the next	\$21,001.00 to \$30,000.00	45%
On excess over	\$30,000.00	50%

The Prime Minister said the effect of the new allowances and structure is best appreciated by examination of the following cases of persons with certain levels of income:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Annual earnings</u>	<u>Old tax</u>	<u>New tax</u>
Single person with no children	\$ 6,000.00	339.00	226.00
Single person with one child	6,000.00	242.00	126.00
Married person with no children	6,000.00	249.00	106.00
Married person with one child	6,000.00	152.00	6.00
Married person with two children	6,000.00	86.00	nil
Single person with no children	12,000.00	2,182.00	983.00
Single person with one child	12,000.00	1,986.00	803.00
Married person with no children	12,000.00	2,001.00	773.00
Married person with one child	12,000.00	1,806.00	623.00
Married person with two children	12,000.00	1,611.00	503.00
Married person with three children	12,000.00	1,506.00	452.00
Single person with no children	30,000.00	11,040.00	6,905.00
Single person with one child	30,000.00	10,650.00	6,455.00
Married person with no children	30,000.00	10,680.00	6,365.00
Married person with one child	30,000.00	10,290.00	5,915.00
Married person with two children	30,000.00	9,900.00	5,555.00
Married person with three children	30,000.00	9,690.00	5,330.00

12 July 1985

"Companies have not been forgotten," the Prime Minister said, "firstly, it was felt that some relief should be given to companies by means of reduction in the company tax from 55% to 50%, a revenue loss of approximately \$350,000. Moreover, as a means of stimulating investment by ordinary Grenadians in companies or overall development, and bringing dividend income in line with interest income, which is currently exempt from income tax, government has decided to make dividend income free from Income Tax.

Mr Blaize said relief will be given also with reference to the stamp duty charged on imported goods. This duty he said will now be calculated and charged only on the c.i.f. value of goods and not on the c.i.f. value plus import duty, the mode which was introduced in 1983.

This measure is expected to have some impact on the cost of living, the Prime Minister said, but the gain to taxpayers is being partially offset by a 15% increase in the Extra-regional tariff on some 90 items as a result of a decision of the Commonwealth Caribbean Heads of Government meeting in Nassau in July 1984. This increase, he said, is being effected for the promotion of intra-regional trade.

The Prime Minister said the budget represents an effort by government to relieve Grenadians from the "heavy burdens of taxation" and history has shown that a free and unshackled people are generally blessed with the incentive, energy and enthusiasm to produce.

"We recognise that the 1985 budget represents only the first steps in our attempt to revitalise and resuscitate the economy of Grenada," he said. "We appreciate that there is a lot yet to be done and that complacency is to be avoided at all costs."

Mr Blaize took the opportunity to call on the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique to greater productivity, so that, under God's guidance, the future growth and prosperity of the country will be assured.

Opposition Objections

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 27 Apr 85 pp 2-3

[Text] Mr Marcel Peters, leader of the opposition in the House of Representatives, has criticized the operation of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) which was introduced during the regime of the People's Revolutionary Government.

Speaking in the House on April 26, following the presentation of the 1985 budget by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Herbert Blaize, Mr Peters said that, while NIS is a desirable thing, he could not understand the rush with which the scheme had been introduced.

"It was too hastily done," he said, "and so was not properly organised."

The leader of the opposition said people were registered for the scheme without their correct ages being recorded and, while this creates no problems with the making of contributions to NIS, when the time comes for the collecting of claims, difficulties arise.

Some people who live far out in the country sometimes have to incur more expense than the claim they have to draw in order to get over all these difficulties he said and he asked for an immediate investigation into the operation of NIS.

Mr Peters said he noted, from the budget presentation, that "dividends on income" (sic) will now be free of tax.

"This means the shareholders of large companies will have no tax to pay on dividends," he said, "but the poor farmers are still called upon to pay 15% increase on their fertilizer's cost."

Mr Peters said he was taking time to say this because the budget document could be meaningless if its deficiencies are not corrected. That document has a lot of "nice figures," he said, but conditions "conducive to all concerned" must be created if the budget is to be successfully implemented.

The leader of the opposition drew attention of the house to the vote under which personal emoluments are provided for.

"I want to state that this budget did not really consider seriously personal emoluments for Parliamentarians, Ministers of Government and, of course, the leader of the opposition," he said.

Mr Peters said he was not bringing this matter up from a personal point of view but from the position of whoever is the leader of the opposition.

A member of parliament receives a "pittance" of EC\$627.00 per month, Mr Peters said, and the parliamentarian is expected to visit his or her constituency and make sure the needs of that constituency are taken care of properly. Additionally, he said, no traveling allowance is given and he thought this an infringement of human rights.

The leader of the opposition said parliamentarians are allowed to import vehicles with 100% import duty concessions and he thought this proved conclusively, that the post of a parliamentarian is a "traveling post" which should have a traveling allowance attached.

"I wish this honourable house to remember," Mr Peters said, "that the leader of the opposition is not the leader of the opposition for the constituency of St Andrews North East (his constituency) but is the leader of the opposition for Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique."

Mr Peters said that, in the light of this, the leader of the opposition, who is not in receipt of a traveling allowance, is the victim of an infringement of human rights.

CSO: 3298/767

GRENADA

PUBLIC CONSULTED ON RESTORATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANS

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 27 Apr 85 pp 14-15

[Text] The Grenada Ministry of Local Government on April 20th wound up a series of public "consultations" in a move to reestablish local Government in the state.

Dr Francis Alexis, minister for local Government, told NEWSLETTER that this meeting was different from those already held.

"The previous meetings were held in different specific locations for the people in those locations," he said, "but today's workshop has representatives from all over the island."

Dr Alexis said the only areas not represented were Grenada's sister islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique where similar workshops are to be held.

The minister said the meetings have been very useful in that they have permitted Government to know the wishes of the public with respect to the form local Government should take when it is reintroduced.

"This exercise has pointed out to us the mistakes we would have made if we had not had these consultations," he said, "and an example of this is the modification we have had to make concerning village councils."

The Government had intended to have a "multiplicity" of these Councils, Dr Alexis said, but it has become obvious the public thinks this would be "too much confusion." The total proposed number of village councils has now been whittled down from over 100 to 52, he said.

Other areas in which the public has influenced modifications are in the establishment of District Boards and the provision for Central Government to nominate members to local Government bodies.

"There was some doubt in the Ministry as to whether we should have District Boards," Dr Alexis said, "but the people have made it clear they want District Boards. As far as nominations to the boards are concerned, we were thinking of some Central Government nominations, but the people have raised doubts about this and it has been dropped from our proposal."

The Minister said he expected to take his proposals to Cabinet within a month. He could not say how long Cabinet will take to consider the matter but, it is important and he does not expect it to be rushed through.

Dr Alexis said some difficulty is being experienced with having the draft legislation prepared. Technical aid has been sought, there have been some hitches but efforts are continuing.

Grenada has not had Local Government since 1969. At that time, the capital city, St George's, was a municipality and there were District Boards in all the parishes.

In that year, addressing the Annual Conference of Local Government bodies, Mr Herbert Preudhomme, then Minister for Local Government in the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) Government of Sir Eric Gairy, announced his Government had decided to dissolve all local Government bodies.

Mr Preudhomme said this move was to facilitate reorganisation of Local Government in the state but this action was seen as undertaken to oust the Grenada National Party which then controlled Local Government.

GULP did not reorganise or reintroduce Local Government.

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GRENADA

TOURISM MINISTER HITS BUSINESSMEN FOR LACK OF RESPONSE

FL062104 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 6 Jun 85

[Text] St Georges, June 6--Grenada's Tourism Minister George Brizan says he has noticed some reticence on the part of local businessmen to get involved in medium-size and large-scale tourism related projects badly needed to help boost this key foreign exchange earning sector.

Brizan said this was clearly reflected in the lacklustre response a few weeks ago when the government invited a number of local entrepreneurs to set up a resort at the scenic Grand Etang area, a regular haunt for visitors to the island.

He said he expected the businessmen to at least explore the possibility of the project through a feasibility study to determine, among other things, whether sufficient funds could be raised to get the venture off the ground, but there was a clear feeling of reluctance on their part.

This is a problem. I think what they should have done was to have at least said we are going to explore (the project). We are going to see exactly where we can get the funds and so on, he told delegates at a local hotelier's conference.

We do not have the ability to take risks, and I am putting it for what it is worth, that if the local entrepreneurial class is to develop and make a contribution to the economy then you must take risks, and you must be prepared to take risks, he said.

Grenada, which last year welcomed 39,000 tourists and netted an estimated EC45.7 million dollars (one EC dollar, 37 cents U.S.) from the industry, has only 395 hotel rooms.

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GRENADA

BRIEFS

CRITICISM OF GRAHAM APPOINTMENTS--St George's, Mon., (CANA)--Grenadian nutmeg growers have criticised the government's decision to appoint retired High Court judge Sam Graham as chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Grenada Development Bank (GDB), both state-run institutions. The growers, in a resolution passed at the annual general meeting of the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) said the move was not in the best interests of the agricultural sector. Their argument is that with Graham serving in both posts, there would be a conflict of interest between agriculture and industry. Copies of the resolution are to be forwarded to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, the minister responsible for industrial development, and Agriculture Minister George Brizan. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jun 85 p 15]

CSO: 3298/768

GUYANA

OPPOSITION ORGANS REPORT ON INDEPENDENT MAY DAY RALLIES

TUC-Sponsored Activities

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] The May Day rallies held by the Trades Union Congress in various areas outside of Georgetown were an unqualified success, when the divisive activities of the PNC are taken into account. These PNC activities were designed to stifle the TUC rallies and cause great confusion among the workers. The radio and the state-owned press were skillfully utilised to assist in spreading this confusion. It could be said, however, that the efforts of the PNC were a dismal failure. Big TUC successes were scored in New Amsterdam and Linden.

A round-up of the various rallies held outside of Georgetown is as follows:

* Skeldon: A modest turnout of workers on the two marches and at the rally heard speakers from the TUC, the GASU, and the NAACIE explain the situation facing labour; and who also denounced the splitting activities of the PNC. The PNC had intended to hold a counter-rally in the area, but it was called off. PPP Executive Committee member Mithulall Mangal also spoke. This rally was chaired by Dennis Mangal of NAACIE.

* Rose Hall: Two enthusiastic marches took place culminating in a large rally in a festive mood. Along the routes drums beat out lively rhythms which served to keep the marchers in high spirits. Addresses were delivered by Premchand Dass for the GAWU and a PSU representative. PPP Executive Committee member and member of Parliament Feroze Mohamed also spoke. No PNC counterrally was held here either.

* New Amsterdam: Early in the morning the PNC staged its 'rally' after waiting some hours for the crowd of coerced persons and officials to build up by the ferry stelling. The PNC marchers consisted of some 70 percent military (in plain clothes) and paramilitary (in uniform). There were firemen, prison warders, and People's Militia. Also uncomfortable looking contingents of teachers, nurses and students. There was no visible evidence of either bauxite workers or sugar workers participating in the farce. This modest turnout (half of what the TUC rally was last year) was addressed by Hamilton Green Vice President and top PNC official. Only the GLU, MPCA and GTU marched with the PNC in New Amsterdam.

The TUC rally which was held at the Esplanade not far away from the PNC rally, was beyond expectations numerically, inspite of the intensity of PNC radio and press propaganda and the high degree of coercion on workers. The GAWU contingent with nearly 200 sugar workers was the largest contingent in the marches. One march was from Canje and the other from a point in New Amsterdam. Music was supplied by a band playing martial rhythms (hired by the PSU) and a 'Tasa' team (hired by the GAWU). These two bands created a sensation as the procession moved through the streets of the Town to the cheers of the bystanders who had earlier looked on the PNC counter-march in silence and obvious disapproval. Marching with the TUC were the PSU, the ATGWU, the TUYM, the GAWU, the CCWU, the GBSU, the GMWU, the NAACIE and a small group known as the Citizens Committee.

(The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union...ATGWU..is evidently split, for in Georgetown a part of it marched with the PNC.)

Speakers here included Oscar Keene of the PSU, Agnes Gentle of the ATGWU, Albert Budhoo of GAWU and Clinton Collymore Member of Parliament and of the PPP Executive Committee.

* Rosignol: The marchers came from Bath Settlement, joining up with other workers all along the route to Rosignol, where the rally was held. Speakers included PSU executive member W. Jones and Narbada Persaud, Member of Parliament and of the PPP Executive Committee. No PNC counterrally was held here.

* Linden: The TUC rally in this bauxite Town was a mammoth affair, which dwarfed the PNC counter-rally addressed by Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte. Addresses were delivered by a representative of the CCWU; N.K. Gopaul for the TUC; S. Lewis for the GMWU; and by the GBSU President. PPP Member of Parliament and Central Committee member Cyril Belgrave also spoke to the workers. The rally was held indoors at Union Headquarters.

It is understood that the TUC had applied for police permission to hold its rally at Cuffy Square according to tradition, but this was not allowed. The permission to hold a rally in Cuffy Square went to the PNC.

On the march workers shouted slogans '25 a day'; 'We want George Daniels'; 'Long Live TUC'; 'Down with the Splitters'; 'Down with the Hamper Govt'; 'Bauxite workers always hungry'; 'Sugar cake and rice flour can't work.'

This rally was described as the 'biggest rally of genuine workers in Linden for many years' and as an indication of the 'commitment of the workers to stand firm with their unions.'

* Sisters: In this area on the WBD there was a modest march with a rally at Sawpit Square. The crowd was addressed by Christopher James of GMWU, Ivelaw France of GAWU and Clement Rohee, Executive member of the PPP.

* Metan-Meer-Zorg: There was a mammoth rally which followed an enthusiastic march from Tuschen EBE. The large crowd was addressed by TUC President George Daniels, PPP Leader Cheddi Jagan and PPP Executive Committee member Clement

Rohes. No PNC counter rally was held anywhere on the West Demerara either.

It was observed that among the measures used by the PNC was one to employ a fleet of buses which went as far afield as Mahaica to bring people to Georgetown to attend the PNC counter-rally at the Square of the Revolution. This rally was addressed by President Burnham, the PNC leader. On the other hand work was made available to both sugar and bauxite workers in an effort to influence them to earn money, rather than join the TUC marches and rallies. This ploy failed.

In the marches in New Amsterdam and Linden the workers sang 'We shall Overcome' and 'Solidarity Forever' with the rally in New Amsterdam concluding with the 'Internationale.'

At all the rallies resolutions were passed denouncing the PNC splitters, demanding \$25 per day, and expressing firm support for TUC President George Daniels.

Jagan, Daniels Remarks

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] In spite of the many difficulties engineered against the TUC, its May Day march and rally were a huge success. Spontaneity and a general spirit of solidarity and comradeship were the hallmarks of the TUC march and rally in Georgetown, contrasting sharply with the well-regimented, uniformed and compulsory attendance by state employees at the PNC-sponsored march and rally.

Difficulties which the TUC overcame included:

- a blackout by the press and radio of information as to route, time, etc.
- the manipulation of the withdrawal of the steel bands which were to accompany the march.
- the blackout of electricity at the National Park.
- the withdrawal of most transport facilities for the PNC rally.
- the efforts to coerce and intimidate workers to attend the PNC rally.

Despite hurdles placed in the way of TUC organising Secretary Lincoln Lewis, in preparing for May Day, thousands of workers rose above the threats of dismissal and discrimination, and marched through the city. In each city block citizens rushed out of homes to greet the marchers and join in their chants. They finally settled down at the National Park for the main event--addresses by GAWU's Honorary President, Dr Cheddi Jagan and TUC President George Daniels.

All agreed that the occasion was historic. There were reasons for concern too. Days prior to May Day unions affiliated to the ruling party, for reasons better known to them, broke away from the TUC and organised a counter rally addressed by President Forbes Burnham. "It was the bleakest moment since 1953," said TUC President George Daniels.

Dr Jagan, given a rousing welcome as he took the microphones scoffed at epithets thrown at the TUC by the ruling party. "Words such as detractors, destabilisers and opportunists are being hurled," he declared.

Speaking about the arms buildup by imperialist nations and the threat to world peace, Dr Jagan said in Guyana it was "senseless for President Burnham to spend millions on arms for a big army." He traced the decline in other programmes and noted that in contrast, this year's allocation for the security forces amounts to \$190 millions, \$37 million more than the previous year.

Dr Jagan supported TUC moves for cuts in the army, national service, overseas embassies and the huge Government apparatus.

He called for a halt on the use of 'diversions' to beef up the army. First the Brazilians were coming, then the Venezuelans and now 'rockets are found on our foreshore.' He called for the establishment of a genuine people's militia.

The PPP General Secretary traced also past government actions of racial and political discrimination and the use of state funds for PNC political work. (Hurried preparations for Revolution Square cost more than \$4 million.) He called for a halt in discrimination in food distribution and backed the TUC demand for importation of wheaten flour.

On the labour scene Dr Jagan said the PNC must honour its commitment to the TUC to consult it on labour matters and stated that the Labour Amendment Act must be repealed. He likewise lashed out at the government for not implementing workers' participation in the nationalised sector. 'There can be no socialism without democracy' he said. In relation to the TUC, the veteran trade unionist said insults are thrown at George Daniels by the regime. 'Because Daniels is showing courage and integrity by standing firmly with the workers against your pressures, you want to chop off his head,' Dr Jagan said.

A solution to the present problems, he said, lies in the class struggle which in Guyana's context means fighting against the IMF, devaluation, denationalisation, antiworking class policies and support for anti-imperialist actions. The class struggle also means, he said, to struggle against the dominant tendency in the ruling party which wants to maintain the existing system which is causing economic stagnation and mass poverty.

He declared that to go forward the battles must be waged in the context of the need for a political solution. He called for an alliance of all progressive forces to move forward to a democratic, anti-imperialist and socialist oriented course.

President George Daniels also addressed the need for change. He said the TUC, for which there is a rebirth of confidence since last year, has been defending the workers' rights. "The going will be muddy and rough," he said, "but with the support of people of Guyana we must achieve our objectives."

Daniels outlined the present state of the wages negotiations with government. He said that the TUC is sticking to the analysis that a minimum monthly salary \$1357.78 for a family of six is necessary. As part of the package he also said the TUC is bargaining for indexation of wages to cope with inflation and rising cost of living. He also announced plans for a new tax structure that bears relation to the minimum wage. Among other things the TUC is looking into demands for adjustments in traveling and meal allowances.

The TUC President, for the first time made public the findings of the TUC's Political Committee, which he heads. The Committee looked at the causes of the crisis which include a structural dependence of the economy on the capitalist markets in being primary producers, the effects of the capitalist crisis on Guyana and increases in fuel and other prices.

Other deep-seated problems internally are the economic crisis, a closed political system denying workers involvement in political decisions, a fragmented working class due to political manipulation and perpetuation of racial and sectoral interests, lack of productivity and restrictions on democratic political practice.

The situation needs drastic solutions. 'As a prerequisite for redressing the crisis, a political solution is paramount,' he said and explained the TUC's concept of a political solution as the need for Revolutionary Democratic Alliance of forces with socialist aspirations. He included the private sector in this alliance, in an advisory capacity.

He said that the TUC's position is different from those of the various political parties and called for the establishment of a Consultative Body of top leaders of socialist oriented political parties, with the TUC as chairman playing the role of an autonomous and independent agent of labour.

He further noted that the PNC has so far shown that the economic crisis is beyond its control and a political crisis would not be in its interest to acknowledge. The PPP, on the other hand, has shown little interest in the exclusive control of political power without which its capacity to resolve crucial political problems becomes limited. The WPA, he said, does not seem to be ready for the contest of political office.

He concluded that with the 'dedication, commitment and high level of political consciousness of the leadership of the PPP,' the PNC's control of the levels of power and communication and the intellectual expertise at the disposal of the WPA, the country can be taken on a road of progress.

Also speaking at the National Park was President of the Trade Union Youth Movement, Michael Ford. He spoke on the role of youths and students and their role in the present situation.

Pollydore Speech

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 May 85 p 1

[Text] Joseph Pollydore, General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, chaired the May Day rally at the National Park. Pollydore has been at the helm of the trade union movement for as long as most people could remember. In the few words below, in his own deliberate style, backed with tremendous experience, he feelingly captures the complexities of the Guyana scene which occasioned at each pause an applause from appreciative workers at the rally. Over to Pollydore.

I want to say that 32 years ago, in 1953, the TUC was then dissolved and a new TUC was formed. That was when the Constitution was suspended. There was a break in working class unity at the time. Those who did so were considered right wingers. I have no name-book description for those who have done so on this occasion.

What is perhaps worthwhile to take note of is that we have developed a new trend that is, we must establish parallel organisations where we can't control existing ones. We must take note of the fact that we now have a Guyana Council of Religion. We must take note of the fact that we have a new organisation of trained West Indian Lawyers. We must take note of the fact that whereas we had an authentic Guyana Peace Council, we now have another peace council (Guyana Council for Peace and Solidarity, Ed.)

I am sure that those of you who are here are proud of the fact that without the support of the rabbi, school children and the military, you are here in your thousands.

I want to say this, however, that those who seek to divide the movement must take note of the fact that this division is usually exploited by the very external forces that we sometimes talk about cooperating to fight against. You cannot talk about cooperating in defeating external forces when you are creating the situation where it is easier for external forces to penetrate.

In 1958 all forces in this country marched together. Today they are separated. I must say for me, I have learnt a new lesson in the past few days about the political situation in this country. I had thought that genuine efforts were afoot to bring together a working understanding of the political parties in this country. But, alas! I must say this. I am convinced that all the moves are in fact so superficial that you can discount them.

We have adopted a resolution in the TUC calling for a political solution. On that basis we planned this May Day to be a mammoth May Day bringing all forces together. I cannot see therefore, if we are all agreed on the need for a solution to our crisis, how this division could have been engineered. And of course it was engineered.

We shall move on. I told my comrades that if we had 10 persons, let us march. I pass through life when at my age this is the only place I belong--the TUC.

I cannot belong to any other TUC. When I am out of this TUC, I am out for good, not to belong to any other TUC. And whatever bit of energy still remains with me, I promise you, I will dedicate it towards the preservation of this TUC.

Attack on 'Destabilization'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 May 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Are the Destabilisers?"]

[Text] A superabundance of accusations were hurled by leaders of the People's National Congress at the May Day rally sponsored by that party and at the Critchlow Wreath Laying Ceremony. The words 'disrupters,' 'destabilisers,' 'detractors,' 'opportunists' were some of the labels used. Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte waxed hot when he said that 'opposition elements' have started a 'feverish, desperate effort to confuse, to disrupt and to do everything possible to prevent the progress and deepening of the revolution.' We may ask in passing--what revolution?

The \$64 question on many lips is, well, who are the destabilisers? Who in the 'opposition' is trying desperately to 'confuse and disrupt'? The other question is, why was there a parallel May Day march and rally in Georgetown and other places? What was the real reason? When one examines carefully the circumstances that led to the famous walk out from a TUC meeting, one can find nothing more serious than a mild dispute over the title of a seminar, certainly not enough for even a grunt of disapproval. Was the parallel May Day operation by the PNC held because the TUC did not agree to the PNC General Secretary's request that the Labour Minister be put in charge of organising the May Day activities? Even that could hardly elicit much emotion. The fact is that there is no visible, to the public at any rate, reason for the pull out from the traditional TUC May Day activities. If we are talking about divisions in our society, then surely the ones who pull out and go their own way are the splitters. Always watch the finger that points at the accused!

Whenever the ruling party has found itself in real trouble, it generally resorts to accusations and well-embroidered threats in order to elicit sympathy. We have gone through the threatening cloud of a Brazilian 'invasion.' Then we were subjected to dozens of puffed-up stories pronouncing an imminent 'invasion' from Venezuela. An attempt was made to beef up threats from the North American colossus, but there was apparently too little evidence to give grist to the mill. Now, the threat is from within!

We all know, of course, of the Guyanese who were attempting to purchase and ship arms to Guyana in furniture crates. But they were caught in a 'sting' operation and are before the Canadian courts at this moment. Is there more to this than we know? Are they the subversives who endanger Guyana? Are the mysterious floating crates of rockets part of a destabilisation effort? If so, tell us, but don't just throw out labels that are meaningless and make allegations which are useless unless backed up by some facts and information.

There are hints, now and then, that 'certain' people are in the pay of the CIA. We know the CIA has been operating here for a long time. We have concrete, documented evidence of what they did in Guyana in the '60s, when, with the help of a number of people still here, they did their best to overthrow the legitimate government of the PPP, elected at free and fair, not rigged, elections. Maybe some of these same people are familiar with how the CIA operates. Guyanese should be told specifics, so they can be on guard.

It is a sad commentary on Guyana that it has become a nation of parallels--a parallel economy that is more powerful than the national economy; parallel farmers' organisations; parallel religious councils; parallel friendship societies and now parallel May Day rallies. When will it stop? And of what use does it serve the nation? It is most unwise for leaders of the government to talk about dividing the working class, when it is obvious to the working class who is, in fact, responsible for the divisions.

CATHOLIC STANDARD Report

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 5 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] The official May Day Rally organised by the TUC in Georgetown drew about 3,000 workers for its march through the streets to the National Park.

The National Media completely blacked out any mention of the TUC Rally while giving full advertisement and coverage to the PNC-sponsored rally.

On the way to the Park the TUC supporters were frequently cheered by onlookers.

At the Park they arrived to find no electricity for the public address system, and had to rig up a makeshift system.

Similar power failures had occurred the previous Friday and Saturday nights during the TUC Fair at the Park, which seriously affected attendance.

Nevertheless, the Speakers at the Rally were given a most enthusiastic reception.

Bro. Joseph Pollydore, who chaired the proceedings, told the cheering crowds that without the support of the Rabbi, schoolchildren, the military and the paramilitary, "You are here in your thousands today."

He warned that those who sought to divide the workers should remember that external forces take advantage of divisions in the people's ranks.

Speakers were Michael Forde, President of the TUYM, Dr Cheddi Jagan and TUC President George Daniels.

Two resolutions were passed at the rally. One called for a \$25-a-day minimum wage from Jan. 1, 1984 and a new minimum wage more than this for 1985.

The rally viewed the action of some affiliates in supporting a separate May Day rally as a serious threat to the trade union movement, because of the confusion and further division that would be created among the workers and therefore resolved to call on the TUC to seriously analyse the causes of the present division and take appropriate action to ensure unity of the trade union movement.

While this rally was going on, a far larger crowd was gathered at the Square of the Revolution for a rally in opposition to that of the TUC, having marched from the Public Buildings and Kitty.

Ministry and Corporation employees had been subjected to intense 'mobilisation' to attend this counter rally.

Staff meetings had been held at which government officials strongly advised all members to attend the rally which the government favoured.

Rewards for attending were promised in the form of free tee shirts and cloth caps, lunch chits, beer and other drinks.

The military and paramilitary were out in large numbers and school children were very much in evidence.

State and corporation vehicles were, as is usual for PNC gatherings, commandeered for the occasion.

Many bands were also provided to accompany the march.

At the Square of the Revolution of the PNC rally was chaired by Ms. Jean Persico and the main spaker was President Burnham.

Reports from the bauxite town of Linden are that attendance at the TUC rally vastly outnumbered that organised by the PNC at which Prime Minister Hoyte spoke.

The TUC, which was denied the use of Cuffy Square in Linden, met on the Wismar side of the river and marched across to their union hall.

Their large rally was held in the open, beside the union hall.

Call for Union Independence

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 5 May 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Independent TUC Needed"]

[Text] Guyana is not a one-party state. It never was and we hope it never will be.

Our Constitution, drafted by the ruling party, guarantees the right to form political parties and their freedom of action. It also guarantees the right freely to associate.

Yet, the ruling party acts as if it were the only one in the country and, through its doctrine of paramountcy, seeks to control not only the 'commanding heights of the economy,' but every organisation within the state, including workers' organisations, the trade unions.

The party now uses the national media as its own exclusive property. The manner in which the May Day Rally was totally blacked out from the national media, while the impression was given that there was only one rally--that sponsored by the party--is reminiscent of the worst kind of dictatorship.

The party is obviously anxious to regain control of the trade union movement, which it lost at the TUC elections last September.

The workers, however, in the face of centralised control of the economy, see the need to be organised independently as workers.

They need to be reassured that leaders of the trade union movement when bargaining with government, their biggest employer, are prepared to stand fully and courageously with them.

Workers in Guyana know only too well how vulnerable they are to arbitrary dismissal. A sacked worker, especially a worker dismissed from the public service or from a public corporation, has the greatest difficulty in finding other employment.

Often he or she is forced to emigrate.

Our laws--including our new Constitution--offer the worker little protection. There is no provision in Guyana for the government or a public corporation to be sued for wrongful dismissal, as long as due notice of dismissal has been given.

In many other Caribbean Commonwealth countries industrial legislation has been enacted similar to that which exists in England, extending the protection afforded workers beyond the right to notice of dismissal. Not so in Guyana.

The only recourse the workers have is to their trade unions and these need to be free from government control.

Leaders in the trade union movement in the past--especially the TUC--had a poor record of standing up for the workers.

We have seen massive scabbing, and the TUC did nothing. Eighty-two workers were dismissed from Guyana Stores, and many other sackings have followed with hardly a whimper from the TUC.

Under new leadership the TUC has signaled its determination to take an independent stand.

Unions that in the past refused to march under the banner of the TUC because it was controlled by the party, have now given their full support to the movement.

Hopefully, the workers in those unions affiliated to the ruling party will now do all in their power to persuade their leadership to take an independent stand and unite under the leadership of a liberated and dynamic TUC.

WPA Organ's Report

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 6 May 85 p 4

[Text] On May 1, 1985 Georgetown sparked as thousands of working men and women held a militant labour march through the streets of the city. It was the first time in the last seven or eight years that the TUC was forced to organise a workers' rally without the help and resources of the state.

The TUC march was prevented from starting by the Police who allowed it to move off only after 9.15 a.m. As the crowd of unionists and other citizens hung around the Independence Park, the CCWU contingent arrived and was greeted with loud applause. It was second in size only to the GAWU group.

The march was led by TUC President George Daniels and other members of the TUC executive, including Leslie Melville, Lincoln Lewis (GBSU and TUC Organising Secretary) and C Y Thomas (GWU).

In Georgetown, the middle-sized TUC march was overshadowed in numbers by the state-sponsored march which was heavily backed by PNC orders to ministries and corporations to force their employees to march or else. The security forces provided large numbers of men and women disguised in civilian clothes.

The only victory of the state-sponsored breakaway march was in numbers. In terms of freedom, it was a failure. The TUC march led by Daniels was made up of workers who knew they are taking a risk in defying orders to march with the State. They did so freely and in the high spirits of working people's rebellion. The march was hailed by the masses of people along the street who shouted the same demands the trade union ranks were making: demands for relief. A heavy chant throughout the ranks was against rice flour and rice three times a day and "Labour Power! No Dictator!" Bringing up the rear of the TUC march were many who were unattached to unions and wished to show their solidarity.

Criticism of Party Involvement

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 6 May 85 p 2

[Text] The five TUC out of town rallies were all addressed by members listed in yesterday's MIRROR as Central Committee members of the People's Progressive Party. Some also had the qualification of member of Parliament. On the side of the breakaway rallies, there was a similar arrangement, all of them being addressed by PNC leaders.

There are party leaders who are trade union leaders in their own right, and these would fit in at May Day rallies of the type planned. OPEN WORD sounds the warning that such arrangements follow the old political culture of trade union platforms being used by a political party for its own growth. They play into the hands of the ruling party and should be seriously reconsidered.

GUYANA

REPORTAGE ON BURNHAM'S MAY DAY RALLY ADDRESS

PNC Achievements

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 May 85 p 1

[Text]

THERE is no alternative to a people who having gained independence taking control of the natural resources of the country, Leader of the People's National Congress and President, Cde. Forbes Burnham, told a massive rally at the Square of the Revolution on May Day.

Delivering the feature address, Cde. Burnham said that having taken control of the resources the nation is not guided by outside interests in its productive pursuits. Rather the forces of production are dictated by the interests of the people.

He said that if the bauxite industry had remained in private hands by now it would have been out of operation and there would have been a massive addition to the ranks of the unemployed.

Privately-owned bauxite industries are in shambles, he added.

On the contrary, the local bauxite industry is moving forward and all indications are that the set targets will be surpassed, Cde. Burnham said. A similar condition exists in the rice and the nationalised sugar industry.

It is from these conditions that the nation can be in a position to pay increased wages and salaries, Cde. Burnham said. He added that there are those who insist that the national minimum wage be higher than the present level. These people need to understand the facts about a national economy.

Using the analogy of the bucket of water, Cde. Burnham reminded the massive rally that should one keep dipping from the bucket there will soon come a time when there will no longer be any water left. The national economy is the same since continued payouts without replenishment will empty the economy, he said.

Cde. Burnham said that in 1964 when the PNC acceded to the seat of Government it immediately instituted a 90 per cent pay hike without any prolonged discussion.

This, he said, was because the Government had pledged to the workers: "Not a cent more."

{In its issue of 12 May, page 1, NEW NATION carries the following "correction":

[In our last issue the printer's devil played a peculiar

trick on us. A number of lines were omitted from a paragraph with the result that the entire meaning of that paragraph was changed.

[What appeared was:

"This, he said, was because the Government had pledged to the workers: Not a cent more."

[In fact, the paragraph should have read, "This, he said, was because the PNC Government, having come out of the working class, was aware of the problems of the workers. The previous Government had pledged to the workers: Not a cent more."]

The PNC Government by virtue of its socialist orientation is committed to the improvement of the quality of the life of the people and for this improvement to be continued there must be increased production and productivity at all levels.

And in the drive for in-

creased production and productivity the nation is seeking ways and means of providing greater employment opportunities. There have been the construction of the Van-ceram Tableware factory, the completion of the Yarowkabra Glassworks and the works currently under-way at the various large agricultural projects. Government is to propose that future pay increases be linked to performance since the nation cannot afford to allow the inefficient to enjoy the same benefits as their efficient counterparts.

But in the face of these developments the nation continues to be plagued by some difficult and real problems which cannot be wished away, Cde. Burnham said.

These cannot be wished away by inviting the multinationals or as some feel, by accepting the terms

proposed by the International Monetary Fund, he said.

The experiences of Jamaica which accepted the IMF conditions and opened its economic doors to the foreign entrepreneurs are clear examples for Guyana.

In the light of these the key lies in the effort of the local people and the establishment of meaningful relationships with friendly countries, Cde. Burnham said. This course represents an alternative to accepting the terms proposed by the IMF, he added.

At present Guyana has entered into agreements of joint ventures and for the exchange of goods with a number of friendly countries. One such agreement the public transport services will be boosted by the acquisition of 100 buses from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, he said.

Threat of Sabotage

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 May 85 p 1

[Text]

EVERY act of sabotage should be of concern to the people of Guyana since it is they who own the industries, Cde. Forbes Burnham told the massive May Day rally at the Square of the Revolution, Wednesday.

He said that in spite of the strides the nation is making in the field of development there are saboteurs in our midst bent on hindering the drive to economic prosperity.

There have been strikes for frivolous reasons and there have been other acts of destabilisation, some of which were reported by people who had prior knowledge but who waited

until the act was committed, he said.

Cde. Burnham described the latter action as a lack of awareness to one's duty and obligation.

And, he said, in spite of the introduction of worker-participation at a number of Government agencies, there still continues a tendency on the part of some managers to deal with problems which affected the workers.

In some cases management tend to ignore some issues on the ground that these are trivial. But what may appear to be trivial to management may be a gut issue for the workers and Cde. Burnham urged managers to examine

every issue.

This, he said, will assist in the smooth running of the industries. But the workers have their part to play.

After announcing the arrival of 24 school buses from Cuba and of 100 buses from Yugoslavia to supplement the national transport system, Cde. Burnham charged that these buses must be properly maintained and not be subjected to the callous disregard which is often shown to public property.

Socialism does not mean untidiness and the wanton destruction of property, he said.

The 24 buses are to be used for transporting the nation's schoolchildren.

GUYANA

JAGAN TALKS TO PRESS, COMMENTS ON DIALOGUE WITH PNC

Criticism of PNC Actions

Georgetown MIRROR in English 12 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] The struggle of the working people for unity and social progress continues but with many obstacles thrown in the path, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Cheddi Jagan, on Thursday, May 9, met with the local and foreign media to discuss the current situation. He emphasised the need for a peaceful solution to Guyana's problems and called on the government to reverse its present course and "prepare the proper climate for a meaningful dialogue." Below is the full text of Dr Jagan's statement read at the Press Conference:

The serious and potentially dangerous situation arising from the recent divisive actions of the ruling People's National Congress has underlined this necessity to meet with you, regrettably at such short notice today, May 9--a day when progressive humanity is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the defeat over Hitlerite fascism, Japanese militarism and the end of the Second World War.

We join in paying tribute to the 55 million, including 20 million Soviet citizens, who lost their lives in that war. In this period of nuclear confrontation and the danger of a nuclear holocaust the PPP calls for the broadest possible antiwar coalition, similar to the anti-Hitlerite coalition during World War II. The preservation of world peace is the most important and urgent issue today. The threats and embargos against Nicaragua must cease, and the Caribbean must be made a Zone of Peace.

Peaceful Solution

Guyana too needs a peaceful political solution. The PNC, by cynically engineering a split in the labour movement and planning to widen further the cleavage by interference in union elections, is sowing the seeds not of cooperation, but of confrontation. This campaign of hostility undermines the atmosphere for a national dialogue, aimed at bringing about a peaceful resolution of the political crisis in Guyana.

Fears that the divisions will go deep and may bedevil the Public Service Union elections and general elections have been expressed even by CHRONICLE columnist Carl Blackman, who scoffed at "attempts to divide the unions at a time when the situation cries for a real unity."

TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore has virtually accused the ruling party with acting in bad faith and with not being serious in finding common grounds for a democratic political solution when he said on May Day: "I had thought that genuine efforts were afoot to bring together a working understanding of the political parties in this country. But, alas, I must say this. I am convinced that all the moves are in fact so superficial that you can discount them."

The People's Progressive Party reaffirms its sincere commitment to a peaceful and democratic political solution for Guyana. By deeds we have demonstrated our abiding desire for racial and working class unity, for a regime of national consensus based on our proposals for a National Patriotic Front and Government premised on a democratic, anti-imperialist and socialist-oriented programme.

It was in quest of this democratic alternative and a broad-based government, based on free and fair elections, that the PPP welcomed the Critchlow Dialogue on "The Way Forward." But the PNC tried to sabotage the Dialogue by waving its flag of "paramountcy" and singing its swan-song "PNC will rule forever." The state media suppressed the conclusions favourable to, and supportive of, a radically new political order and a truly people's government. We want you to know these things, since the PNC is fond of denouncing "saboteurs" and "destabilisers" through the same media.

Provocation

While claiming that it had extended "the hand of friendship" and had sought cooperation, the PNC continues to unleash acts of provocation and harassment against the PPP, with repeated seizures of our public address equipment and searches at the homes of our leading comrades under cover of the National Security Act.

The PPP nevertheless welcomed the latest initiative of the TUC for a conference of the main political forces, under TUC chairmanship. This should be a further test for the PNC to eschew the path of confrontation and to sit around the table with the hope of reaching agreement on national issues which can redound to the good of our nation.

For the PNC to put up a stiff back to the broad avenues of democracy is to delay the development of Guyana and the prosperity of our people. This is why we regret so much the PNC's refusal to allow an International Mission to probe Guyana's electoral laws which have spawned, since 1968, unrepresentative governments. With the life of the present government expiring at the end of 1985, it is again feared, because there has been no change in the attitude of the ruling party to the necessity for free and fair elections, that another fraud will be perpetrated on the people.

It was with this in mind, that I was forced to journey to Trinidad last weekend at the head of a PPP delegation to give evidence before the Lord Chitnis Mission, hoping thereby to alert and galvanise Caribbean and International public opinion behind the struggles of the Guyanese people for a free vote, for a broad-based democratic government, and for a peaceful road to the future.

The PPP calls on the PNC to reverse its present course of confrontation and prepare the proper climate for a meaningful dialogue. Guyana urgently needs a peaceful political solution for social progress.

Stand on Power-Sharing

Georgetown MIRROR in English 12 May 85 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party (PPP) wants a Guyana Parliamentary delegation to visit Cuba and Nicaragua in order to probe how elections are conducted at the local 'grassroots' and central government levels.

This was told to the media on Thursday last by Dr Cheddi Jagan, the PPP General Secretary, who expressed justifiable fears about a rigged general elections in Guyana when the life of the PNC government comes to an end in December 1985.

Both Cuba and Nicaragua have a free, fair and direct vote with persons elected to offices being subjected to recall if they do not perform well. The revolutionary democratic electoral system in these countries has been lauded even by detractors of the Havana and Managua governments.

Here in Guyana, the PNC regime claims that it is moving towards the Cuba-Nicaragua revolutionary axis, but is mortally afraid to emulate the examples of these countries so far as a free and fair election is concerned. All elections in Guyana since 1968 have been crooked and fraudulent--a practice alien to revolutionary democratic states like Nicaragua where Lord Chitnis and some 400 observers testified to a clean vote in last November's elections.

Dr Jagan who has just returned from Trinidad where he gave evidence before the Lord Chitnis Mission on electoral malpractices in Guyana, the Mission having been refused entry into Guyana, denounced the 'completely fraudulent operations' which take the place of elections in this Commonwealth Caribbean state. These fraudulent operations include the overseas vote, proxy vote, postal vote and removal of ballot boxes from the place of poll before a preliminary count is made.

The election issue was one of the main questions raised at the press conference by media personnel who included Clem David (GBC, CANA, ASSOCIATED PRESS) Kamini Persaud and Dhanraj Bhagwandin (GNA), Courtney Gibson (CHRONICLE), Adam Harris (NEW NATION), Gaitre Jaundoo (GBC) and Andrew Morrison (CATHOLIC STANDARD).

The PPP leader accused the ruling party with not being serious about a political dialogue, and with not creating the climate for party to party talks aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution of the crisis in Guyana.

Though the PPP is interested in political power for the working class and other oppressed Guyanese, the party is not opposed to sharing this power with other parties which subscribe to a programme of democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation. The PNC can belong to this 'front government.'

Dr Jagan told the media that the PPP is fighting for unity outside the political arena as well, which explains the party's close association with the Trades Union Congress. The PPP feels that the present TUC is committed to socialism for Guyana and that the TUC struggle should be channeled against imperialism and against the existing bureaucratic parasitic state capitalist system over which the PNC presides today. The PPP will fight against the TUC being an instrument of destabilisation and counterrevolution in the way it was in the past when the PNC-UF-CIA axis was formed against the PPP government, or as used against Manley in Jamaica and Allende in Chile.

The PPP, according to Dr Jagan, also sees a useful and important role for the Church, the patriotic capitalists and the middle strata in Guyana. These forces can help to quickly reconstruct the economy and would boost the fighting power of the country against imperialist intervention.

Under a revolutionary democratic National Patriotic Front government, which the PPP has been advocating way back in the '60s, and which came out as concrete proposals in 1977, the media would play an important role in development. Dr Jagan favours an open media, that is a media which allow different forces to put forward their views to the people. I don't fear this course because I have confidence in what I believe. I think the people should be given all the information and they will come around to accepting the truth. If there are two or three parties which say they believe in socialism, then let them have use of the media to say how exactly we should go about building socialism in Guyana.

The PPP General Secretary underlined the need in Guyana for the class struggle. But the mention of the term 'class struggle' conjured in pro-government media personnel the spectre of strikes and confrontation. The veteran political leader explained that economic, political and ideological struggles, apart from raising the consciousness of the masses, and aid revolutionary democratic elements in the PNC leadership to go forward. Only with the class struggle can Guyana be put on a correct and progressive course.

CHRONICLE Report

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 May 85 pp 4-5

[Text] Leader of the Minority People's Progressive Party [PPP] Dr Cheddi Jagan yesterday said his party was still considering an invitation from the ruling People's National Congress [PNC] to enter into "constructive dialogue."

Cde Jagan told a Press conference at Freedom House, the PPP headquarters in Robb Street, that his party was still discussing the invitation at the leadership and other levels, and would make public its response shortly.

He said the PPP, since receiving the invitation for constructive dialogue, had written to the PNC asking for "concrete proposals" for these talks, but had not received what it considered a satisfactory response from the ruling party.

"We are not opposed to talks per se, but at this stage we want something concrete from the PNC...the government says it wants to talk, then it must say what it wants to talk about," he said.

He also contended that his party was not seeking out conditions for talks with the PNC. And, the PNC, he added, needs to set what he referred to as "the proper climate for a meaningful dialogue." He denied that there was a split within the ranks of the PPP on the question of constructive dialogue with the PNC.

And, on allegations that the PPP was on the verge of entering into an alliance with other forces in Guyana with a view to attaining political power, he said: "Like any other political party, the PPP is interested in political power... but we are not in alliance with any strange bedfellows."

He repeated his call for a National Patriotic Front Government and contended that the PPP was interested in "broad dialogue" with all social and economic forces in Guyana. He, "personally," was not interested in any post within any National Patriotic Front Government.

The PPP leader accused the government of "engineering a split in the labour movement and of pursuing a path of confrontation." He has also urged a reform of Guyana's electoral laws, which he contended, since 1968, have spawned unrepresentative governments.

He took the opportunity to report that he visited Trinidad and Tobago last weekend at the head of a PPP delegation to give evidence before a mission (on Guyana's election system) headed by one Lord Chitnis.

And he said, he is of the opinion that an International Commission observing general elections here would not be interference in Guyana's internal affairs. Neither was the Chitnis Mission interfering in Guyana's domestic affairs, he contended.

Meanwhile, the PPP leader has suggested that a local Parliamentary delegation be sent to Cuba and Nicaragua to study the election machinery in these two countries.

CSO: 3298/771

GUYANA

WPA ORGAN OUTLINES AIMS IN FAIR-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 11 May 85 p 1

[Text] Now is the time to sign. The Elections Mission, invited to Guyana to examine our electoral law, met last week in Trinidad and Tobago to receive evidence from Guyanese. The Mission, made up of Lord Chitnis of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group and Professor Greenberg of Americas Watch, went to Trinidad and Tobago because they were banned from entering Guyana. Dr J.K.M. Richmon Richmond, and representatives from the Guyana Human Rights Association, the Guyana Bar Association, the People's Progressive Party and the Working People's Alliance gave the Mission a very full account of how elections in Guyana are rigged. Brother Eusi went for the WPA.

The Mission is to publish a first report on its findings very shortly. A longer report is to be released later.

Now is the time to sign the people's petition which makes six reasonable demands for free and fair elections. The Signature Campaign is open to supporters of all political parties in Guyana. You only have to be of voting age to sign.

These are the demands of the signature campaign:

- (1) That the voters' list be prepared by an independent Elections Commission;
- (2) That overseas voting be abolished;
- (3) That ballots should be counted at the place of voting;
- (4) That the printing and custody of the ballots be the sole responsibility of an independent Elections Commission;
- (5) That all parties involved in the voting have equal access to the national press and radio;
- (6) That the police and armed forces safeguard the right of all citizens and political parties to campaign freely and lawfully and ensure that the 1985 General Elections in Guyana are free and fair and free from fear.

The results of the Signature Campaign are to be sent to the current chair or Caricom who is Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago. When you sign, you say you want a change. If you don't sign, you must find another way to let CARICOM know your feelings.

12 July 1985

GUYANA

WPA REPLIES TO CONTACT ARTICLE, NOTES PNC-PPP TALKS

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Jun 85 p 10

[Text]

Caribbean Contact published in its May 1985 (Vol 12 No 12) issue an article about the possible purpose and role of the Working People's Alliance (WPA) in Guyana. The article stirred some controversy and the WPA has sent us its response. We are publishing that response in two installments:

THE way questions are being posed to the Working People's Alliance (WPA) of late, one would think it held state power, or was destined to hold state power. We ourselves know of no such destiny! We are fighting, in a very difficult situation, not only against the Burnham dictatorship, but against the old politics.

Perhaps it is in confidence of our fight for a new politics that journalists have made us, instead of the dictatorship, the target of questions. These questions, too, are no longer submitted to be published along with the answers. What we have resulting from this method is not really question and answer, but comments in the form of questions, with the right to reply later.

Question: Is the new line of the party influenced by a desire to be-

come more involved in the current talks being held between the PNC and the PPP? Perhaps they fear that they are in danger of being left out in the cold, yet further away from the levers of power?

Answer: No. WPA cannot become more involved, since it is not involved. Regarding the proposed talks between the PPP and the PNC, the WPA does not see such talks as a betrayal and will not accuse the PPP of betrayal for responding in any way to the call. It must be remembered that the PNC has been rejecting calls from the PPP for talks since 1977.

In considering the request for talks, the PPP seems to be influenced (1) by the very real control of the highly armed state by the PNC; (2) by a belief that inside the PNC are persons concerned with the salvation of the country as a whole; (3) by the view that the crisis presents the possibility of bargaining the PNC out of its false dominance of the political scene.

DANGER FOR WPA

The talks have one danger for the WPA. There is the possibility that the regime wants them as a means of finding a cover for the repression of the WPA and the new trade union rebellion—which is an

independent force, along with the renewed stirrings in sections of the Church. However, the PPP is a popular force, fully aware of the feelings of the masses in Guyana. It knows that a surrender will not be missed by the masses.

The WPA cannot be "left out in the cold" by what other parties plan to do. Even without having been in Parliament, the party enjoys the warm embrace of masses of working people in most parts of the country.

VIEWS ON TALKS WITH DICTATORS

This is a chance for us to say something to all concerned on the question of how we ourselves see the whole idea of talks with a dictatorship. Some Latin American experiences show—the Commonwealth Caribbean offers none—that in the course of struggle and when dictatorships find that they cannot carry on in the old way, negotiations have arisen between the armed and unarmed resistance and the regimes (as in El Salvador), or between the armed resistance and an elected government (as in Colombia).

WPA is not an armed resistance but if in the course of struggle, the peoples' forces become so visibly strong that the regime finds the need to negotiate with that part of it associated with the WPA, the WPA will have to study what the people's movement stands to gain by such negotiations, weigh them with the alternatives and take a sensible decision.

So far as we know, this point

has not yet arrived. The PNC may be anticipating it partly, in its invitation to the PPP to talk. This may be why the PPP publicly called on the TUC to support the PPP in its negotiations with the PNC.

STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

In short, if the struggle for democracy is effective, and if the dictatorship still has any sanity, it may seek to negotiate for patriotic reasons. The party must then discuss whether negotiation is the next step in the people's fight for bread and justice. In matters of this kind no political force can be dogmatic one way or the other.

It is not our view, with due respect to those who think differently, that the popular struggle in Guyana has the momentum at present to squeeze concessions out of the rulers through negotiations. What the rulers are trying to do is to nip the struggle in the bud.

We have to ask why the PNC refused in 1982 to attend a Crisis Meeting called by the Guyana Council of Churches and attended by all other political parties, including the WPA? Why in 1977 it rejected with disdain a call from the PPP for a National Patriotic Front while the WPA commented favourably on the principle? And why now in 1985, the PNC takes the lead in calling on the PPP for negotiations?

Some confusion has arisen over our call for reconciliation, not of any three parties, but of the Guyanese nation—because of our well known position against the inclu-

sion of the PNC in any settlement.

THE ESSENCE OF THE MATTER

However, even when it was arguing in 1978 at the PPP's conference on the National Patriotic Front, against the inclusion of the PNC, the cause of the problem, the WPA declared that if the ruling party conceded or consented to fair and free elections, then such a party would be a new PNC. This is the essence of the matter.

If we now say that that party which wins should invite others to form a national government, we are posing the same questions of the legitimacy and the good faith of the PNC in a new period, in a new way. This question clearly carries a sense of the possible results of a fair and free election. The question is whether the PNC which is sure to be defeated at a fair and free election will accept the verdict of the people and join anything in which it is not paramount?

The *Appeal from Guyana* issued just before Tim Hector's call for a three-party unity appeared in the *Outlet*, was intended in part to do the following: (1) tell the Caribbean that after years of dictatorship a political solution *cannot exclude the Guyanese people*; (2) set out in clear terms that the people must be allowed to say in genuine elections where their choice lies, or their choices lie; (3) repeat our formulation of 1978 that a PNC which concedes fair and free elections will be a new type of PNC; (4) update our view on the form of government of national unity and reconstruction.

To be continued next month.

GUYANA

IMF REJECTION ASSESSED; FUTURE COURSE MAPPED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 May 85 pp 1, 5

[Text]

SOMETIME today, the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet in Washington to decide whether to formally declare Guyana ineligible to draw on the general resources of the Fund.

We shall await the decision. But even as we do so, we will be reminded about that apt quotation Finance Minister Carl Greenidge used in his budget speech earlier this year when talking about Guyana and the IMF.

He had quoted Paulus Kruger who in 1899 said: "They have asked for my trousers and I have given them; they have asked for my coat, I have given that also, now they want my life and that I cannot give."

Yes. They are asking us to give our lives. But that we cannot do.

Guyana, it should be recalled, had given its commitment to a plan to pay the IMF approximately one-third of the country's hard currency receipts in 1985. The IMF had however, deemed this commitment inadequate and insisted that its standard rules required Guyana to pay off the amount that would become due in 1985.

This debt which amounted to about 32 million U.S. dollars was very large relative to Guyana's total hard currency earnings and it was evident, as the Government agreed, that a larger payment would undermine the country's ability to make future payments and to acquire inputs for productive industries.

Guyana, meanwhile, and at great sacrifice, continued to make payments to the IMF and, to date, has paid the Fund over four million U.S. dollars or about 20 per cent of its earnings from sugar.

At a meeting on February 15, however, the IMF Board decided that if Guyana did not pay all the money it owed the Fund, it would be formally declared ineligible to draw on the Fund's general resources. That decision was taken in spite of the fact that Board members acknowledged that Guyana made considerable and very impressive efforts to pay the Fund.

Reports on that meeting also said some western countries took the view that Guyana's difficulties were unfortunate but not a matter for the Fund to take into account.

In trying to assess the likely consequences should the Board formally declare Guyana ineligible, there is no real parallel on which Guyanese can draw, for, since the establishment of the IMF, only Czechoslovakia [1948] Cuba [1958] and Vietnam [earlier this year] have found themselves

in a similar position.

(Nicaragua which was in danger of being declared ineligible, recently paid off all its arrears).

One consequence likely to flow from such a declaration by the Board is the closing off of financial aid from the Fund itself.

It is significant to note, however, that since the collapse of the programme the Government signed with the IMF in July 1982, Guyana has had no agreements or programmes with the Fund. As such, being declared ineligible will not be of any significance with respect to our current access to Fund resources for we have not been receiving such resources for sometime now.

It is difficult to anticipate the reaction of other multilateral financial institutions. And, with only one exception, the Western bilateral institutions have already, to all intents and purposes, ceased providing Guyana with financial assistance a long time ago.

In addition, of the other multilateral institutions, Guyana is in arrears with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) which, like the IMF has not been lending to Guyana for some time now.

And, while the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is currently the largest source of multilateral funds to Guyana and has been actively lending to countries—Argentina, for example—without insisting that these countries be in good standing with the IMF, it is difficult to assess how far some of its members would be prepared to go to try to exclude Guyana from benefiting from IDB's resources.

It is conceivable, that should Guyana be declared ineligible by the IMF Board, some of the country's creditors such as commercial banks and bilateral agencies might seek to take action such as confiscating or seizing Guyana's property or its exports abroad.

However, whilst such actions could harm Guyana, it would not do much good for the image of the countries and institutions responsible especially since Guyana has insisted that it will make repayments to the best of its ability and, indeed, is in good standing with respect to interest payments on amounts officially deferred.

We agree fully with the stand taken by Guyana under the leadership of President Forbes Burnham who last weekend reiterated that Guyana remains committed to honouring its obligations but who also stressed that as a nation we should "take our courage in our hands" and not worry about being declared ineligible to draw on the resources of the IMF.

Pay we will. And, there is ample evidence abroad that we can make it without drawing on the resources of the IMF.

Whatever the outcome of today's meeting, we will have to continue to pursue vigorously the task of increasing agricultural production to feed ourselves and to export. We will also have to continue with the task of resuscitating the bauxite industry, and of financing our development programme through appropriate diversification of trade with friendly countries.

The way out of our economic problem will continue to be that of increased production, productivity and export and that of relevant investment.

We note with a sense of national pride that this formula has already begun to show results, and that this is much more than can be said for countries which have embarked repeatedly on inappropriate programmes with the IMF.

GUYANA

PNC GENERAL COUNCIL CONVENES, HEARS PARTY LEADERS

Burnham Address

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 12 May 85 p 1

[Text] "We have got to take our courage in our hands" for reaction is waging an offensive against Guyana.

This was the gist of one of the important messages left with members of the General Council of the People's National Congress by Party Leader President Forbes Burnham yesterday morning.

This is the year when the threat from the reactionaries is going to be the greatest and already one is witnessing all sorts of permutations and combinations taking place, Cde. Burnham told that session of General Council to which heads of Government Corporations, Ministries and agencies and other government officials were specially invited.

In his two-hour address Cde. Burnham dealt with among other things, the political situation in this region, the arms race, the state of the national economy and Government's programmes in pursuit of meaningful development and Guyana and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Dealing with the IMF, he noted that since the last meeting of General Council (last January) the IMF has said it will declare Guyana ineligible to draw on IMF resources and should meet in another four days on this matter.

Guyana, he stressed, will honour its obligations and from time to time seek to settle its indebtedness with the IMF. However, as a people we should not worry about whether the IMF declares us ineligible or eligible to draw on its resources.

He referred to the harsh terms the IMF has been seeking to impose on countries like Guyana and pointed out that acceptance of the terms being advanced by that international financial institution would be tantamount to the "kiss of death."

He also drew attention to recent remarks by Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Jose Sarney of Brazil about their respective nation's relations

with the IMF, and who had pointed out that while paying their debts was a matter of honour their countries could not do so at the cost of the suffering and starving of their people.

And stressing that Guyanese should not be worried about the IMF declaring Guyana ineligible, he noted that all the "eligible bachelors"--as determined by the IMF and including those in this region--are "getting blow" anyway.

He also stressed that in spite of not entering into any new arrangements with the IMF, unlike those countries which have so done, Guyana has been able to put in place arrangements for a number of new projects for the nation's development. Guyana, he stressed, has the resources, the will, the skills and the initiative to succeed. And referring to the political situation in this region, he noted that the U.S. Administration seems intent on removing the duly elected Sandinista Government in Nicaragua and on replacing it with the Contras.

Nicaragua and Guyana, Cde. Burnham noted have been subjected to the same type of pressure being exerted through some international financial institutions.

"Reaction is waging an offensive," he warned. "Yesterday it was Grenada. Today it is Nicaragua. Your guess is as good as mine when it will be Guyana's turn," Cde. Burnham told the large gathering.

Countries like Guyana, he pointed out, have two options: do a deal and lie prostrate before the man (imperialism) or fight to maintain their freedom, independence and dignity.

"There is nothing to be gained by compromising with the man... [or] by selling our birthright for a mess of pottage," he added.

Chandisingh Report

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 May 85 p 1

[Text] General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde. Ranji Chandisingh, told the current sitting of the General Council of the Party that there has been a marked and sustained rise in citizens' participation and an "uplift" in the mood of the Guyanese people within recent times.

Delivering the General Secretary's report to the General Council meeting Thursday, Cde. Chandisingh said this demonstrates the potential for further improvement in the national economic situation with the greater exercise of resourcefulness and self-reliance.

Guyanese are being motivated and mobilised for constructive endeavours, he added.

Despite the difficulties and irritants, the Guyanese people have shown their determination to forge ahead, seeing the crisis as an opportunity to exercise their ingenuity and creativity.

The People's National Congress, meanwhile, Cde Chandisingh said, continues to play a pivotal role in protecting and enhancing the real interests of the nation and to be active in promoting these interests.

The party is also continuing to improve its own machinery to be in a position to perform its task more effectively. These tasks include training the party staff and other categories of party workers to make them capable of mobilising their various communities to participate in the development thrust, and to increase their awareness of their tasks which lie ahead.

"Since we serve the interests of the Guyanese people we must so gear our party to ensure the people's victory at all stages of the struggle," Cde. Chandisingh said.

The People's National Congress, being a vanguard Party, can ill-afford to allow complacency to dull the edge of the nation's revolutionary struggle. To this end there is need for increased efforts, he said.

Recent events in Guyana exposed the activities of forces opposed to Guyana's independent socialist development. These forces were continuing attempts to undermine and destabilise the Guyana Government and to discredit the party.

CSO: 3298/770

GUYANA

PUBLIC SERVICE UNION ELECTIONS IN DISARRAY, PNC BLAMED

Challenger's Walkout

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 May 85 p 8

[Text] The controversy over the upcoming elections of the Guyana Public Service Union took a new turn yesterday when the main challenger for the presidency and four other members walked out of a special Executive Council meeting called to discuss the conducting of the poll.

Cde. Alan Munroe, a main contender in the fight against the incumbent Cde. George Daniels, said he and the others who left the meeting at PSU Headquarters were "totally dissatisfied" with the arrangements being put in place for the elections slated for May 27.

The others who left the special Executive Council meeting were Patrick Yarde, Lawrence Mentis, Brenda Williams and Kenneth Denny.

Cde. Munroe told the CHRONICLE afterwards they took strong objections to proposals by the Chief Elections Officer, Leslie Melville to break a 60-year-old tradition and move the polling places "away from Government Ministries and Departments" and to have as Returning Officers persons "other than public servants."

The places to be used for polling include the Guyana Human Rights Association Office, Brickdam; the headquarters of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees [NAACIE], Kingston; and the West End Club, Hope Street.

Cde. Munroe said he and his colleagues who staged the walk-out felt that such a plan would "limit the opportunities for members to vote."

He said he and his colleagues plan seeking the intervention of "a high conciliatory forum" to ensure that the elections are "properly conducted."

The Munroe group had been outnumbered 10 to 5 at the meeting and it was clear they would have been outvoted on the elections plan, sources close to the meeting said.

The PSU elections, for which campaigning is at fever pitch, is centred mainly on what is expected to be a straight fight for the presidency between Cde. Munroe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education now on secondment as Project Manager of the President's College and Cde. Daniels, a Principal Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Health who is on leave to facilitate his performance full time as PSU President.

The PSU elections have already been the subject of a Court order on an issue related to the eligibility of employees of the Ministry of Education for membership and voting rights.

Threat From Government

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 11 May 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Guyana Public Service Union is preparing to hold elections very soon. Since September 1983 the PSU President George Danidles stated publicly that his union was being threatened. He said this at the 1983 TUC conference when the removal of two PSU delegates, two firemen, helped to create a situation which led to the breakup of that conference.

The threats to the PSU are a serious matter. Reports of death plans against the PSU President have been carried in CARIBBEAN CONTACT, MIRROR and OPEN WORD. A massive campaign, financed by the state and supported by the state media, has been launched to unseat him from his union. It is known that public servants who fail to attend electioneering meetings of the PNC candidate Munroe, have received letters. The CATHOLIC STANDARD published one of these letters. PSU members seen putting up Daniels' posters are threatened. It is, in short, a foul campaign.

This week, the PNC candidate led a walk-out from a meeting called by the union. According to the PSU release to the press, "The meeting was specially summoned to determine the points at which polling will be conducted, the time and period of voting, the points at which ballots will be counted in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, and to appoint the required number of Returning and Presiding Officers, for the forthcoming election of members of the Executive Council of the Union, in accordance with Rule 30 (e) (iii) (a) of the Rules of the Union."

The release continued: "The Elections Officer suggested to the meeting that in keeping with his promise to the members of the union that the elections would be free and fair, the polling places should, as far as practicable, be sited away from ministries so as to avoid any suspicion of coercion of members."

The PNC candidate and his friends walked out of a meeting called to ensure that he would have a fair chance at the elections. Why? Does he not want a fair chance?

Firing of Greene

Georgetown MIRROR in English 12 May 85 p 4

[Text] Duncan Greene, 3rd Vice President of the Public Service Union and Guyana Fire Service Georgetown station officer, was unceremoniously dismissed from his fireman duties, a post he held for 31 years.

The Public Service Commission, without stating reasons, in a notice dated May 8 informed Greene of the termination of his services 'in the public interest' effective from May 9.

Greene was thrown in the limelight two years ago when he was hauled away from the 30th Annual Delegates Conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress in which he was participating as a PSU delegate. Despite assurances that Greene was taken away from the Conference on an emergency there was nothing but rum drinking and domino-playing going on at the office. The TUC protested the move engineered by pro-PNCites at the Conference, in their objective to stall the conference.

The holding of Greene as 'hostage' was condemned as political interference and an attack on the then TUC Vice-President, George Daniels, whose PSU supported the militant six-unions on working class issues. That conference was effectively stalled as major issues listed on the agenda were not discussed.

As Chairman of the Georgetown Fire Service Branch, Greene faces the possibility of not being able to contest for executive positions in the controversial May 27 PSU elections. The dismissal means he is no longer a public servant, thus making him ineligible to stand for union positions at elections.

Sources say the same plan is being contemplated for President George Daniels who is seeking re-election as PSU President. The pro-PNCites are throwing their weight behind former Education Ministry Permanent Secretary Allan Munroe.

PSU office sources said the Union is making representation on Green's behalf to get him reinstated. The matter is said to have been raised at the level of the TUC. Militant unionists are bracing themselves for possible action in support of Greene's reinstatement.

Since last year's upset of PNC's control over the TUC there have been reprisals, including dismissals, of militant unionists. Just after the TUC Conference last year Frank Nicholson and Frank Warde of the General Workers' Union were dismissed from their union posts. Both were delegates to the TUC Conference. Later some five other persons were removed from union positions in that union because of their militancy and support for the new TUC.

Even before, the State was out to break the back of the bauxite unions last year when 1,700 workers were sacked in the bauxite industry, top union officials and all shop stewards of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union were booted out. They have still not been reemployed, despite representation by the TUC.

Reaction to Voting Plans

Georgetown MIRROR in English 12 May 85 p 1

[Text] The Guyana Public Service Union has rejected a proposal that the Guyana Human Rights Association premises be used as a polling place during the upcoming PSU elections.

The point was stressed by PSU General Secretary, K.B. Philadelphia after sections of the state media stated that the union had taken a decision to use the GHRA premises for polling which engendered a walkout of a recent Executive Council meeting by five persons.

In a public statement, the PSU general secretary described the walk-out as 'gross discourtesy' to Chairman George Daniels at the meeting called to determine polling points, period of voting, places of counting and the number of returning and presiding officers.

The Election Officer, Leslie Melville had suggested that in keeping 'with a promise to members of the union that the elections would be free and fair' polling places should be sited away from Ministries as far as is practicable so as to 'avoid any suspicion of coercion of members.'

Views on the proposals of the Elections Officer were opened for comments from members. Some reacted favourably while others disagreed. Finally, the Executive decided on the polling places in several areas. During the discussion, one member objected to the headquarters of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union being used as a place of poll and called for a division. Ten voted for the use of the ATGW office while 5 voted against.

Another proposal that a polling place be sited at the Customs Department was rejected by a vote of 9 to 6.

Then a proposal was tabled for discussion that the headquarters of the National Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees be used as one polling site. The democratic vote showed that 9 members voted for the proposal and five voted against.

After the announcement of that vote, five members walked out of the meeting. Among the five was Allan Munroe who is challenging George Daniels for the post of President of the PSU. Others were Patrick Yarde, Lawrence Morris, Brenda Williams and Kenneth Denny. The meeting continued, having still a quorum and finished the business of the meeting.

According to the decisions taken, most of the polling places will be sited at various government agencies.

CSO: 3298/772

GUYANA

ECONOMY SHOWING SIGNS OF RECOVERY COMPARED WITH 1984

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 85 p 5

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Sun., (Cana):

THE GUYANA ECONOMY has turned in an improved 1985 first quarter performance, with key sectors — bauxite, sugar, gold and diamonds — all showing signs of recovery, compared with last year, according to industry figures available here. Only the performance of rice remained sluggish.

Bauxite exports exceeded 455,400 tonnes, between January and March, about 26,000 tons more than was initially projected. The sugar industry also surpassed set targets, when first crop production for 1985 reached 105,000 tons.

Raw gold worth \$2.4 million was declared, as were almost \$300,000 worth of diamonds.

But foreign exchange earnings have not been able to keep pace with demands, leading the Government to pay increasing attention to bartering Guyanese products for manufactured goods required from abroad.

Government has traded local fruits, vegetables, bauxite, rice and timber for motor cars, industrial equipment, raw material for industry, generators, and equipment for two hydro-power plants.

Barter agreements have been made with companies in Britain, Japan and the United States, and with several East Bloc Governments, such as East Germany, Yugoslavia, North Korea, China and Romania.

The Government has also been seeking other assistance from such non-traditional sources, and recently scored an important success with the reopening of a glass factory.

The factory was boarded up for nearly seven years, until Government negotiated some technical assistance from North Korea to get Korean experts to refurbish it.

The administration has also arranged joint venture projects with a number of interests abroad for the exploration of gold, uranium, manganese and kaolin.

Despite these initiatives, Government continues to emphasise agriculture as the cornerstone of the economy of this vast 83,000 square mile country.

President Burnham told a recent general council meeting of his ruling People's National Congress (PNC) that agriculture was important for the survival of Guyana.

Burnham called together heads of State corporations and agencies and the chairmen of the country's ten administrative districts, to tell them that every effort must go into production.

He called for reports from each of the regional chairmen of the ten districts to give reports on the condition of agriculture in their areas, and to report about economic activities.

Meanwhile, the drive to plant more food has been widened from the traditional agricultural belt of the country, with the launching of an urban agriculture development drive.

The drive has, apparently, met with some success, with some areas of Georgetown taking on the decided appearance of a large kitchen garden. At the same time, six food crop marketing centres have been constructed with help from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

GUYANA

1985 BUDGET'S ECONOMIC GOALS FOR REGIONS BEING MET

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 May 85 p 5

[Text] **ADMINISTRATIVE Regions have been sticking with the economic goals set in the 1985 Budget, National Mobilisation Minister Robert Corbin said at the weekend.**

Cde. Corbin and a panel of Public Service and Regional Officials discussed production and other goals, laid out for the Regions in the last Budget, on the GBC programme "Budget Series 1985," broadcast Sunday evening.

The system of local democracy, or regionalism, is currently undergoing a deepening process, involving the strengthening of structures to support regional development programmes.

"In some areas, we have not met our deadlines," Minister Corbin said. The Budget provided for completion of necessary staff transfers to the Regions by March monthend but "this is not yet done, even though quite a number of personnel

have been transferred," Corbin said.

Also on the panel were National Congress of Local Democratic Organs Chairman Hulbert McGowan, Regional Development Ministry Permanent Secretary, Stanley Hamilton, Public Service Ministry Permanent Secretary Joyce Sinclair, and Deputy Permanent Secretary R. Shivanand.

When the Budget was presented in January it was explained that existing administrative structures are "not up to the tasks" of facilitating greater on-the-spot decision-making and monitoring of activities in the Regions.

Subsequently, Government Ministries and Departments were tasked with preparing proposals for redefining their missions and restructuring their operations to bring them more in line with the Regional System.

As regards the other objectives set the Regions, Minister Corbin reported that particularly in the area of

production "most of the Regions have so far stuck to their original programme which was presented at Budget time."

He indicated that emphasis is being put on "certain basic infrastructural works" to facilitate the agricultural thrust, and the maintenance of social services.

Cde. Corbin noted that the theme of the 1985 Budget is "Development within our Means" and one of the specific tasks of the Regions in 1985 was to look within the Regions to examine their resources and see what can be done to develop them.

In this direction Regions have been encouraged to develop inland fish ponds, and to promote Creole duck production among other projects to ensure that there is more dependence on the food they produce rather than on food from other Regions.

"In all these areas I would say that they have so far been on schedule", Cde. Corbin added.

[GNA]

CSO: 3298/772

GUYANA

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LETHEM AIRSTRIP REPORTED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 May 85 p 5

[Text]

WORK on the final phase of the development of the runway at Lethem, Rupununi will commence in the dry season in September and should be completed in December.

Thereafter, the Regional Administration and the Civil Aviation Department will be involved in the maintenance of the airstrip and its ancillary services.

This was announced yesterday following an inspection visit to Lethem Thursday by Transport Minister Seeram Prashad and a technical team headed by Director of Civil Aviation, Anthony Mekdeci.

The second surface application of a bituminous seal coating has just been completed and Minister Prashad and his team found the runway "reasonably smooth except for small puddles of water in isolated depressions" after about three hours of continuous heavy rain.

However, the HS 748 landed on the new runway.

It was decided Thursday that the runway will be open to normal HS748 operations immediately. The HS748 has a capacity of 10 000 pounds.

After a 30-day curing period, ten trial flights with DC-6 aircraft would commence at the convenience of

Guyana Airways Corporation, the first few flights at restricted weight and with careful monitoring of the performance of the surface of the runway before eventually increasing the weight "up to the maximum-all-up-weight of the aircraft at 35 000 pounds.

Among other decisions taken was that the taxiway between the old and new runways be completed as a priority.

Minister, Prashad, who is now also performing the functions of Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, in the absence abroad of Cde. Hamilton Green, said that Region 9 Administration is to complete the fencing of the airfield.

The Civil Aviation Department is to provide funds to the Region for maintenance to the perimeter fence while the Region is to prevent unauthorised per-

sonnel and animals from crossing the airfield.

"The Automatic Direction Finding Aeronautical Navigation Beacon at Apoteri is to be removed and brought to Lethem within 30 days. Thereafter, it is to be installed at a site to be decided upon by the DCA, the Chief Pilot of GAC and the Regional Chairman," a release said.

It added that the CAD was tasked with ascertaining the feasibility of procuring materials, bitumen, fuel and spares from Brazil for the airstrip development project.

The Guyana Government has so far spent \$2 444 496.77 on the Lethem Airstrip with Home Oil Exploration Company contributing \$74 850 as well as the use of their equipment and Labour and the Canadian Government contributing \$50 000 [Can] towards the provision of bitumen.

BRIEFS

RASHID MAY DAY SPEECH--Central Executive Committee Members of the People's National Congress and Minister of Energy and Mines, Cde Harun Rashid, told residents of Corriverton on May Day that there are indications of petroleum resources in Region Six and added that by early next year Government will be awarding a contract to a foreign firm to conduct explorations. Work, he said, was undertaken in the past to determine the petroleum potential in Region Six, included in the present programme will be the drilling of four shallow wells. There are indications of heavy oil deposits in the Region. The People's National Congress, under the leadership of Cde Forbes Burnham, is committed to improving the lot of the working class people and Cde Rashid urged workers not to be misled by those who would want to sow seeds of dissension and mistrust. Cde Rashid told the large and appreciative crowd that Government is not arrogant. It recognises the hardships and difficulties facing the workers. As a result, the policies pursued by Government are designed to make Guyana preserve its independence and prosper. [Excerpts] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 May 85 p 8]

PNC DISTRICT MEETINGS--District conferences of the People's National Congress are to be held next month in the various Party districts. The district is one tier in the six-tier regional system. Already conferences of the People's Cooperative and the Neighbourhood, two other tiers in the Regional structure have been held. With membership of the People's National Congress expiring on May 31 every effort will be made to use the District conferences to ensure that all membership cards are renewed, and to push on to a substantial increase in membership for the Sixth Biennial Congress scheduled for August. There are 38 established districts of the party. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 May 85 p 1]

NEW YOUNG SOCIALIST UNIT--A new Young Socialist Movement group has been launched in the Bartica community and at the inaugural meeting last week, Cde Kenneth Jordan was elected Chairman. Other elected members are Cde Bedeswar Beharry, First Vice-chairman; Cde Brentnol Archer, secretary; Cde Edwin Gilkes, treasurer; Cde Cecil Cramer, public relations officer; and Cdes Colin McKenzie, Ignatius Prowell and Christopher George, as committee members. Central Executive member and first Vice-Chairman of the national YSM, Cde Egan Lawrence, who installed the new officers, identified the need for greater commitment to the advancement of the ideals of the YSM; the need for discipline; performing of leadership roles in the community; pursuing ideological training and undertaking economic agricultural projects. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 May 85 p 1]

NATIONAL SECURITY BILL--Home Affairs Minister Jeffrey Thomas yesterday introduced the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 1985 in the National Assembly. The Bill seeks to reenact the second part of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act which expired in May last year, with certain modifications. According to the Bill circulated by Parliament Office, the National Security Amendment, while seeking reenaction of Part II of the Principal Act, also seeks to include the prevention of subversion of democratic institutions in Guyana under the provisions of the Act. In the brief sitting of Parliament, the "Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order" of 1986, made on March 1, was also presented by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge. Forestry Minister Sallahuddin presented the Guyana Forestry Commission annual report for 1980. Parliament was adjourned to Thursday, May 28, when the Bill presented yesterday will have its second reading. At that sitting Manpower and Cooperatives Minister Kenneth Denny will also present the annual report of his Ministry for 1984. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 May 85 p 1]

SUGAR WORKERS INCENTIVES--Guyana's sugar workers have received close to two million dollars as monthly incentive payments for production this year. The payout is tax free. According to the latest available reports, up to the week ending May 3, Guysuco had paid out approximately \$1.8 million to workers from seven estates. Workers at Rose Hall topped the list qualifying for the equivalent of eight days' pay. They were followed by workers at Skeldon--five days; Albion--four days; Blairmont and Wales--three days each; and LBI and Leonora--two days each. Workers at Houston Estate also qualified for three days tax-free payments but monies paid to these workers are not included in the \$1.8 million. The tax-free incentives payout is intended to help boost production and productivity in the local sugar industry, one of Guyana's leading earners of foreign exchange. Meanwhile, Guysuco has surpassed its production target for this year's first crop. And, in the words of President Forbes Burnham: "That is the material from which spring increased wages and better conditions...increased production and higher productivity" and anyone who says anything else "is a liar and a mocker." But even as there are encouraging signs in the local industry, which Cde Burnham has stressed has got to find ways of diversifying and promoting its vertical integration to increase its viability, the price for the commodity on the world market remains "frighteningly low." [GNA] [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 May 85 p 1]

IDB LOAN SCHEDULE--Though its membership totals 43 countries, the Inter-American Development Bank's lending programme is not extended to all these countries. Only 27 in Latin America and the Caribbean benefit directly from loans of the institution. The remaining countries, mainly in Europe, essentially boost the capital resources of the Bank. Guyana became an IADB member in 1976, and that institution's cumulative lending to this country up to the end of 1984 was over \$150 million. Of the 46 loans approved during that time some of the major ones were for the Abary River drainage and Irrigation works as part of the MMA agriculture land development scheme, a dairy feasibility study, a forestry development project, and training of personnel for Guyana National Engineering Corporation foundry. For this year the Bank

12 July 1985

has 12 loan schedules for Guyana. Three go to the Guyana Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, two for Hosororo Cooperative Credit Union, two for the Guyana Electricity Corporation and one each for the University of Guyana, the Guyana Rice Export Board, the Guyana Water Authority, the Ministry of Works and Transport, and the State Planning Commission. [Excerpts]
[Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 12 May 85 p 4]

AID FOR SURINAME FERRY--Georgetown, May 22--The European Development Fund (EDF) will provide U.S. 14 million dollars to finance the first phase of a project to establish a safe and reliable ferry link between Guyana and its eastern neighbour, Suriname, government sources said here today. Plans for the service had been under examination for some time now. There is heavy traffic between the two countries across the Corentyne River which separates the two states. Most of these services are provided by unreliable and, often, unsafe private launches which are frequently involved in accidents, with fatalities. No timetable was announced for the startup of the ferry project. [Text]
[Bridgetown CANA in English 2101 GMT 22 May 85]

ANTIDRUG ACTIONS--Georgetown, May 29--The Guyana police force says it will forge greater links with its Caribbean counterparts in the fight against the use and trafficking of hard drugs. A senior police spokesman told CANA today that an increase in drug trafficking and other crimes in the region necessitates closer links. Guyana recently said it was being used as a transit centre for drug trafficking. Meanwhile the Guyana police force is being restructured for greater efficiency and several officers and ranks have already lost their jobs, Home Affairs Minister Jeffrey Thomas told police officers at a special meeting in Georgetown. The home affairs minister disclosed that within the past six months the service of several officers and ranks were terminated in the public interest. Thomas said the force is being restructured to make it more effective and place it on a new path to better serve the community. In the new police hierarchy, Commissioner of Police Balram Rahgubir maintains overall responsibility for the force but deputy commissioners have been given more scope and responsibility. New promotions within the force will be announced shortly, the spokesman said. [Text]
[Bridgetown CANA in English 2031 GMT 29 May 85]

CSO: 3298/774

JAMAICA

FINAL 1982 CENSUS FIGURES PUT POPULATION AT 2,190,400

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 85 p 1

[Text]

Jamaica's population based on "final estimates from the 1982 Population Census" is 2,190,400, according to the Demographic Statistics 1984 tabled in Parliament last week.

Preliminary results from the Census "made available in January 1983 gave an estimated count of 2,095,900 on Census Day, June 8, 1983. The corresponding estimate of the population at that period, based on the ongoing intercensal estimates was approximately 2,243,500. This represented a gap of 147,600.

According to the document the final count of 2,190,400 "reduces the gap ... to a more manageable figure of 53,100.

It gave the assurance that "the revision of the intercensal estimates will be undertaken as soon as detailed information on deaths by age, sex, and location can be obtained from the Registrar General's Department."

In its preface the Demographic Statistics 1984 stated that "migration data remain a weak area." It said that with respect to data on internal migration, the availability of information from the 1982 Population Census "will go a far way towards filling the data gap. This will be supplemented by a survey of

internal migration now being conducted..."

The document adds that processing of external migration data remains a problem as work "in this area continues in a disaggregated form."

It states that "increased emphasis will have to be placed on the development of a strong body of migration data, both in relation to the calculation of more accurate measures of external migration and more regular determinants of internal migration. Both factors contribute significantly to the development of current, accurate intercensal population estimates."

There continues to be a gap between official figures as given in the Demographic Statistics and the perception that Jamaicans have of the size of the population. Invariably the perception is that there are more Jamaicans than the official figures indicate. This is one aspect that the document does not address. In fact, on reading the preface it seems to confirm the doubt in people's minds about the level of accuracy rather than inducing them to accept the figures as being accurate.

CSO: 3298/762

JAMAICA

SEAGA BACKS DOWN ON PLAN TO CUT PARISH COUNCIL SEATS

Text of Seaga Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 May 85 p 3

[Text]

Following is the text of Prime Minister Seaga's broadcast to the nation last night on the Local Government issue:

"On Friday, 12th April, based on a decision of the Cabinet, I indicated that in cases where Parish Council services duplicated those already offered by Ministries, such services would be transferred to the relevant Ministries where the infrastructure already exists thereby saving some \$50 million per year in budgeted expenditures.

The removal from the Parish Councils of those functions which are currently duplicated would enable the Councillors to concentrate more effectively on the efficient delivery of those services for which they would continue to have responsibility. These include street cleaning, garbage col-

lection, administration of markets and abattoirs, street lighting, the maintenance of parks, cemeteries and beaches — as well as subdivision and building approvals — all of which are critical to the well-being of the public and have been the source of bitter complaints. It is intended that many of these services which have traditionally been performed by the Parish Councils themselves will now be carried out by private contractors who will be chosen by the Councils by competitive bids. This will provide the Councils with a system by which accountability can be ensured and it will be the responsibility of the Parish Councillors to monitor the performance of contractors to ensure efficient delivery of these services.

In view of the reduction in the range of services provided by Parish Councils,

they would no longer require the current large number of 278 Councillors — more than four times the total membership of the House of Representatives.

The streamlining of the Local Government machinery would also mean that for the first time Parish Councillors would be paid salaries, thus enabling them to devote more time to Parish Council work. At present, Parish Councillors are only paid allowances to cover attendance at Council meetings, and are in reality unpaid voluntary workers. It has become impossible for Councillors to properly serve the people when many of the Councillors themselves are virtually living from hand to mouth.

Putting the Parish Councillors on a proper salaried basis would, more than anything else, enable them truly to represent their constituencies thus making the democratic process function in a more effective and meaningful way than has so far been possible. The reduction of the number of Parish Councillors permits us to take this significant step without adding further to an already overburdened expenditure budget in any substantial way.

In considering the

new proposal, it was calculated that the supportable number of Parish Councillors on the basis of the proposed new format would fall somewhere within a band of 120 to 150, or the equivalent of two to three Councillors to each constituency. In my address to the nation on 12th April, I made reference to 120 seats, or the minimum number of that band.

The Ministry Paper tabled in Parliament made it clear that the figure 120 seats was not cast in concrete, but that there was room between 120 and 150 for the Electoral Advisory Committee to determine.

Since the announcement on 12th April, there has been much public discussion and comment, and concern has been expressed at the fact that Government's policy would have the effect of removing from the Interim Electoral Advisory Committee the power to determine the number of Parish Council seats.

The present electoral system is safeguarded by legislation which precludes the possibility of tampering with boundaries for the benefit of anyone particular Party, and by the fact that the appointment and control of electoral officials are put beyond the reach of political influence.

The proposed amendment to the Law to impose a ceiling on the number of seats would not in any way violate these principles as it would be impossible to predict the determination which the Interim Electoral Advisory Committee would make in the matter of cutting of the new Parish Council seats; nor can it be expected, given the established integrity of the Committee, that the outcome of this exercise would favour one Party or another. There was therefore no political advantage to be gained by proposing the reduction of Parish Council seats to a number within a band of 120 to 150.

This Government would not consider for one moment any change in the arrangements governing the electoral system which would in any way undermine the integrity of the system or dilute the impartiality of its administration. It is a matter of record which cannot be distorted that it was at my insistence that electoral reform was instituted and the Electoral Advisory Committee established.

It is that commitment to free and fair elections that caused my Government to amend the law last year to enable the People's National Party to have representatives on the Committee because, as the public will recall, by refusing to contest the 1983 elections, they lost their right to appoint members to the Committee. And I should point out that we did so without any prompting or request from the PNP or anyone else.

Nevertheless, since my announcement on 12th April, there has been much public discussion and expressions of concern. As a Government, we have listened and we have taken note of the views which have been expressed. We have had discussions with the Independent Senators who have also expressed concern at the impasse which has developed. We have been holding talks at the political level between our representatives on the Electoral Committee and those of the PNP who have stated their Party's opposition to any change in the Law and have submitted that the Electoral

Committee should decide on any reduction in the number of Parish Council seats.

Accordingly, after a further discussion with my Cabinet I wish to announce that the Government will not pursue any amendment to the Law to place a limit on the number of Parish Council seats. The Government has formally referred

the issue to the Electoral Advisory Committee at which the Government's representatives will articulate our proposal for a reduction in the number of seats for the reasons which I have stated and in greater detail.

The final decision will be made by the Committee after discussion and debate and the Government will abide by the Committee's decision. The Government's representatives on the Committee will make themselves available as often as is necessary in order that the work of the Committee can proceed as quickly as possible.

I trust that this will now resolve the issue of who will decide the number of Parish Council seats so that the members of the Electoral Committee may now settle down to the job of determining the number of seats and the boundaries of the new Electoral Divisions, as quickly as possible.

Equally, the people of Jamaica can now be relieved of the anxiety which has created political tensions over the past three weeks, and our attention turned to other matters of importance."

PNP Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The following statement was issued last night on behalf of the People's National Party by its General Secretary, Dr. Paul Robertson.

"The People's National Party wishes to congratulate the people of Jamaica who have scored a notable victory for the preservation of democracy through their public national outcry and unwillingness to accept the autocratic decision by Mr. Seaga last month to unilaterally and illegally emasculate the powers of the Electoral Advisory Committee and to reduce the number of Parish Council seats on the eve of Local Government elections before any dialogue and debate in the country.

"This national demonstration by the people of Jamaica of their commitment to democracy and rejection of dictatorial tendencies and attitudes has obviously been felt by Mr. Seaga who has now been forced by public opinion to announce that he has recognised the danger of attempting to tamper with the integrity of the Electoral Advisory Committee and compromise the Committee's legal authority and legal responsibility. Mr. Seaga continues to misrepresent his role in the decision by the

PNP Government to initiate the programme for reform of the electoral system in 1979.

"The party wishes to remind him that it was the President of the PNP, Mr. Michael Manley, who in his first budget speech as Leader of the Opposition in 1969, proposed the need to reform this system.

"The PNP also wishes to remind Mr. Seaga that while he continues to present the facade of his role in these reforms, he chooses to forget that despite his participation in the reform he nevertheless broke the spirit of the objective of the system to ensure free and fair elections when he improperly called General Elections for December 83 — after assuring the country in Parliament that elections would not be held before the distribution had taken place of ID cards with photographs of electors.

"The PNP has mandated its representatives on the Electoral Advisory Committee not to back away from the demand for Local Government elections to be held by June 30, 1985, and in all the present 278 Parish Council seats."

JAMAICA

SPAULDING DEFENDS USE OF POLICE AGAINST PNP PROTESTERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 May 85 p 3

[Text]

Minister of National Security and Justice, Hon. Winston Spaulding said yesterday that the action of the police in breaking up last week's PNP demonstration in Cross Roads was justified.

Mr. Spaulding was responding to a statement by PNP Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson last weekend that the police acted illegally on Wednesday morning last week in ordering a group of PNP demonstrators in Cross Roads to disperse and using tear gas on them to do so.

Mr. Spaulding said that the statement by Mr. Patterson that the action of the police was illegal, "is evidently self-serving convenience not to be taken seriously." Mr. Spaulding said, "The police have more than ample power to break up a public assembly or meeting where there is an imminent threat of disorder or where the police apprehend that a breach of peace is likely to be occasioned."

He said that since January the police have allowed some 62 demonstrations and it has been only on two occasions that they have had to take action to contain a situation which, had it been developed, would have been exploited, leading to very serious problems.

He said the police had information in their possession which formed the basis of the advice given by the Commissioner of Police for the leaders of the PNP to refrain from holding the meeting in Cross Roads. He said there had been incidents of tyres and other debris being burnt not far from the assembly point. Groups of persons had blocked roads leading to Cross Roads and groups of persons were converging on Cross Roads as previous police intelligence indicated would happen. In the light of the circumstances the action of the police was justified, he said.

Mr. Spaulding said the Government has no policy to ban meetings, assemblies or lawful protest.

"The authority of the police to maintain law and order generally, to prevent apprehended breaches of the peace or to avoid the development of serious security conflicts will not be delegated to those who feel they have a right to do what they wish to do, where they wish to do so, in whatever manner they wish to do so irrespective of consequences."

Mr. Spaulding said that while he agreed that the Constitution provides for the freedom of assembly and association of every person "this freedom is subject to respect for rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest." He said it is therefore for the police in any given case to assess the situation and make a judgement as to the necessary action to be taken by them in the interest of the public.

JAMAICA

CARL STONE VOICES CONCERN OVER POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 May 85 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] FOR AT LEAST the last 20 years and especially since the 1970s, the management of the security forces in this country has been very problematic because of its link with party politics.

The tear-gassing of PNP activists in the Cross Roads area and the events and heated JLP-PNP debate which have followed since, have all put the issue back on the agenda.

In 1976 the PNP government declared a State of Emergency and locked up a number of JLP leaders on the grounds that security intelligence suggested that persons connected to that party were actively scheming to subvert the government.

The JLP has consistently maintained that they were innocent victims of a gross manipulation of power orchestrated to assist the PNP's chances of re-election.

In the period leading up to the 1980 election, factions within the Police openly and defiantly used their power to harass PNP leaders and activists, especially in the Corporate Area and St. Catherine. A few even tampered with the electoral process on election day in one constituency.

Some of the atrocities that have occurred in this country on election days have been aided and abetted by a small number of politically corrupt policemen who either conveniently looked the other way or gave active support.

A minority of local policemen are from time to time used by both parties as shock troops to intimidate and harass political opponents at the community level in particular constituencies.

Restrictions on the right to conduct mass meetings and marches have also been a feature of the political manipulation of the security power governing parties have.

My polls have consistently shown that when the PNP is in power JLP supporters and independent voters believe that the PNP manipulates the Police for partisan purposes. Similarly when the JLP is in power PNP supporters and independent voters are equally convinced that the JLP does the same thing. These perceptions are, of course, reinforced by actual events that take place and lend credibility to these views.

The Big Doubt

It is against this background that I have to judge the Cross Roads incident and the debate between Mr. Spaulding our Minister of Security and the PNP's party Chairman Mr. Patterson.

We are told that the tear gas was used to disperse the PNP rally because of intelligence information about terrible disruptions that were likely to occur if the rally were permitted to proceed and because the organisers were told not to assemble in the Cross Roads area.

That position would be credible if the behaviour of the crowd had shown signs of fulfilling the security intelligence predictions. Not only were the persons assembled in the rally generously treated to an excess of tear gas without the slightest signs of provocation but the entire Cross Roads area was quickly engulfed in tear gas. A massive show of police power was displayed to deter others who attempted to enter the area to join the rally.

If subversives are intent on disrupting a country, tear-gassing a rally is not likely to have deterred them. One therefore is left to wonder why the subversive act or acts did not occur and why the police or the minister thought that dispersing a crowd with tear gas was likely to have discouraged those intentions if they were either real or serious.

Indeed, what the precipitate and ill-advised tear gas attack on the PNP rally did was to turn the rally into a disorderly mob which regrouped at the PNP's office and invaded the Wyndham, providing yet another episode of political protest that was blown up out of proportion by the U.S. media.

Surely a strong police or other security presence ought to have been adequate to maintain the peace. If the police and the minister thought otherwise they are either being paranoid or the victims of the kind of exaggerated security reports that inspired the 1976 State of Emergency.

The big doubt that many of us have is whether the decision to disrupt the PNP rally was a mainly political one based on fears what might begin as a small rally might swell into a big march through the streets and demonstrate popular opposition to the government. We will never know in the same way that we will never know the full facts behind the decision to call the State of Emergency in 1976.

But no amount of elaborate rationalisations from the minister is likely to convince many of us because of the long history of political considerations which have been inserted into the country's security management.

Larger Issue

But there is a larger issue here. The Minister has cited the many instances in which permission has been given for rallies and marches. But on Labour Day the NWU trade union was denied permission to march. Are we to understand that intelligence reports on likely disturbances were also the basis for this decision? Or is it that the JLP government senses that feelings against them are so strong in the Corporate Area at this time on such issues as prices and the cost of living that they have deep fears that small rallies might swell into massive political protests if force is not used to deter would-be marches or demonstrators who fear Police violence. Is it that the real reason behind these decisions is the fear that the political climate is too hot to allow activists to enjoy full rights to conduct political assemblies?

Two things worry me here. The PNP's Mr. Pickersgill was visibly and publicly identified with the PNP rally. Within a matter of hours after these protest events and the tear-gassing, an office owned by him and on which his name is prominently displayed gets burnt to the ground. Was this an act of political retaliation or was this a mere coincidence of events? If it is the former the implications are frightening.

Secondly when Police officials or a government take it upon themselves to deny the political rights of unions, workers and political activists on the grounds that these rights are not likely to be responsibly exercised, we are entering the kind of mind-set that governs fascist regimes like those in Chile and South Africa. When those decisions are made in respect of political opponents in a sensitive period when a governing party is under stress, sane and sober minds must ask questions as to what considerations guide these decisions.

There are circumstances that can justify that restrictive approach to meetings, rallies and marches. But there is no convincing evidence that the PNP or the NWU have been engaging in acts which could justify the view that their rights to peaceful assembly ought to be curtailed in the national interest. On the contrary the PNP has been a docile, quiet and low-keyed opposition party since 1980.

Huge Marches

I recall the JLP being much more active in the 1970s by leading some huge marches through the city and even going as far as to call for a national strike by employers and workers who were asked to stay home as a mark of protest against Manley's PNP.

It is certainly part of the tradition of politics in parliamentary democracies that governments bend over backwards to permit citizens to exercise their political rights even if this involves some element of political risk.

The plea of security risk is used in so many countries in the Third World to destroy political freedoms and to force the demobilisation of threatening opposition groups. It is not unreasonable to wonder whether there is not a political power game going on here which has its eye on elections and not really on security.

All of this leads me to feel that the day must come in this country when our security forces come under an independent body like the Electoral Commission to reduce the risk of manipulation by the party in power and when the management of the Police force is relatively autonomous and freed from the traditional political pressures which have blighted its operations in the past.

CSO: 3298/760

JAMAICA

GLASSPOLE DECRIES ONE-PARTY STATE STEMMING FROM '83 POLL

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 26 May 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

SIR FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE is not happy with the existence of a one-party Parliament in Jamaica, and is also of the view that the snap election called by the Government in 1983 created that situation by allowing "too narrow a time for the mobilising of forces."

At the same time, the Governor-General has the power, under the Constitution, to dissolve Parliament and to call a General Election; and can do so even without the advice of the Prime Minister, provided a certain condition exists.

His Excellency made these statements in a speech last Sunday night at a dinner given by the Indo-Jamaican Cultural Society to coincide with the 140th anniversary of the first landing of Indian immigrants to Jamaica on May 10, 1845.

Declaring that members of the Society were "part and parcel of the Jamaican nation" and, as such, must be concerned and well-informed about the political state of the country, Sir Florizel told his audience:

"You are part and parcel of the Jamaican nation. We share your woes, and you share our happiness, and that is how it must be. There must be no division whatsoever, there must be no line of demarcation whatsoever between us. We must go forward as one people, you having your own programmes of your own heritage and all that; but when we come to the national outlook, we must be as one."

'Must be concerned'

Now, let us understand that each and every one of us has a direct and distinct interest in what takes place in Jamaica. We cannot isolate ourselves from it whatsoever. We must be concerned with the social state of our people, we must be concerned with the economic state of our people, we must be concerned with the political state of our people. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and believe we can escape our responsibilities.

"At present we are passing through grim times, despite what may be happening on the other side of the fence — times of much hunger, times of great concern in many areas, times when civic pride seems to be at a vanishing point in our community life, times when corruption seems to be taking a vice-like grip in many areas of our national life, times when we are terribly upset by our drug problem."

"All this and more keep beating in our heads, and we ask ourselves: What can we do to help? The problems seem to overwhelm us, but we cannot run and leave them. We cannot run and hide, we have to stand up and be counted. Somewhere

along the line there is a role for all of us to play, but we have to seek out the role and find it, and when you find it you must put your best foot forward.

Dilemma

"Now let us understand that our country is on the horns of a dilemma. There are problems on the level of Local Government, Constitutional activities; and at the Central Government level we have some calling for elections now, while others are saying 'No way.' The cause of all this is the unfortunate state of a one-party House of Representatives, a condition that Jamaica has never had in our 41 years of Constitutional activities where we were either partly in charge or wholly in charge.

"And you will forgive me if tonight I just say something about it, because it is something that is going to continue to nag us and nag us and nag us continually; and you should be informed, you should be well-informed of what the problem is. Let me tell you: I've gone to the trouble of bringing the Constitution here with me tonight because I propose to read from it and tell you what is the score.

"Section 54 (1) of the Constitution says: 'The Governor-General may at any time by proclamation published in the Gazette prorogue or dissolve Parliament.' That's 54 (1) but 64 (5) says: 'In the exercise of his power under this section, the Governor-General shall act on the advice of the Prime Minister, provided that if the House of Representatives by a resolution which has received the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members therefore has resolved that it has no confidence in the Government, the Governor-General can by proclamation published in the Gazette, dissolve Parliament.' "So that makes it clear. I have the right to dissolve Parliament, but I do so on the advice of the Prime Minister; except under one condition: that Parliament by its own majority vote records a vote of no-confidence in the Government. And at that time I ask nobody any questions, I simply proceed to dissolve Parliament at my will and pleasure. That has never happened yet. And I have a great doubt that we will never live to see that take place in Jamaica.

"Section 65 (1) of the Constitution says: 'A General Election of members of the House of Representatives shall be held at such time, within three months of the dissolution of Parliament, as the Governor-General, again acting in accordance with the Prime Minister, shall appoint by proclamation published in the Gazette.' So that so soon as the Prime Minister advises me that I should dissolve Parliament, he says to me, 'Would you kindly publish the Election date as such and such a date, Nomination Date as such and such a date,? and, according to the Constitution, I am in duty bound to do so. If I refuse to do so, I would have to resign.

What solution?

"No, what has caused the trouble is because in 1983 the Prime Minister pulled a snap election and gave too narrow a time for the mobilising of forces for the Nomination Day and for Election Day. Now, the question arising is: What could be the possible solution to such a problem?

"There are two solutions: (1) You either put it in the Constitution that election shall be held on such and such a day in such and such a month every five years after election; or you say, "When the Prime Minister advises the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament and to call another election there must be a certain number of days between when he tells the Governor-General so and when nomination takes place."

"If we do not wish a recurrence of what had taken place in 1983, we have got to put it into the Constitution that X number of days — 10, 15, 20 days — must be given before Nomination is called. Alternately, we could do like the American Constitution where a fixed day in a year, every five years, is fixed for an election.

"I have deliberately selected this occasion to mount this, what I would call, a little campaign on the Constitution, because there has been a tremendous amount of talk. People have written to me and told me that I should use my power to dissolve Parliament, and I write them, sympathising with their absence of knowledge (I would not describe it as

ignorance, I call it absence of knowledge) and I tell them: 'Look, it cannot be done that way, it is only when we enter into the consideration of the affairs that we can have a justifiable solution to the problem.'

"Now, my dear friends, let me say this as an old Parliamentarian, as one who helped to create the Jamaican Constitution; I am not happy with a Parliament comprised entirely of one party and I believe Mike himself a referee to the Hon. Mike Henry, Minister of State, who as present is not happy with a Parliament consisting of only one-Party member membership: It is totally inconsistent with the whole history of Jamaica Parliamentary development, and I see with him.

"Now I do not pretend to know, I am not going to prophesy what is going to be the result of all those calling for elections, and all those saying 'no way.' I am not going to prophesy. But I have purposely sought to use tonight to give you an insight into the whole matter, so that when you hear discussions in the future you can say 'Look, I heard it from the horse's mouth, and this is what the horse said.'

"And, my dear friends, it is a problem that we are faced with and I do not know how it is going to be resolved. But you are all Jamaicans, everyone of you, without exception.

You are today a part and parcel of the Jamaican nation:

"My view is: set ourselves to perform a task and do it. We can console ourselves that we are engaged in constructive activities while squabbling goes on all around us. Never let us lose our sense of proportion in the midst of all this upstir. Heaven knows, Jamaica is like a boiling pot at the present time. It is inescapable because the economic pressures are terrific; they are hard, everybody is feeling the pinch, except the very rich people in the country; and we cannot forget our great responsibility to our fellow countrymen.

"Never let us lose our sense of proportion in the midst of all this upstir. Let your society continue to walk the road of constructive activity, though the heavens fall. Let your organisation continue to build the spirit of unity and great friendship between yourselves, and between yourselves and your Jamaican counterparts.

Let your Society be in the spirit of making you feel that you belong, because you do belong to Jamaica and you are part and parcel of the Jamaican society, May your organisation continue to grow and prosper and carry out the task you set yourselves.

JAMAICA

PNP BLAMES GOVERNMENT, NOT PUBLIC GROUPS, FOR HIGH PRICES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 85 p 23

[Text] The People's National Party has issued a statement deploring what it calls "the barefaced attempt" of the Government to "lay the blame for price increases at the feet of business people, traders and professionals."

PNP spokesman on Industry, Commerce and Foreign Trade, Mr. Alfred Rattray, said that "The Shadow Cabinet of the PNP took note of the speech made at the National Labour Day service by the Hon. Hugh Shearer (Deputy Prime Minister) and regarded it as an attempt to shift from the Seaga Government the blame for the rapid, frequent and steep escalation of prices now destroying the lives of our people...."

"The PNP warned the Seaga Government that these policies would destroy the standard of living of our people and were a recipe for starvation and malnutrition for more and more Jamaicans. Now that these fears have been realised, Government spokesmen are seeking to shift the blame.

"We call upon the Government to accept responsibility for these consequences of its deliberate acts and to move immediately to revert to administrative methods of controlling imports and prices instead of the method of massive taxation and currency devaluation which it is now employing with such catastrophic effects on our people," the release said.

At the Labour Day service the Deputy Prime Minister criticised business people, traders and professionals for increasing their prices and fees "beyond justification" and with "shameful regularity" in many cases.

The PNP also warned the Government not to "abandon the bulk importation of commodities instituted by the last PNP Government which has had such beneficial effects in keeping down prices and in providing profits to subsidize items used by the poor."

CSO: 3298/760

JAMAICA

MANLEY LABOR DAY MESSAGE LAMENTS PLIGHT OF WORKERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 85 p 3

[Text]

President of the People's National Party and the National Workers Union, Mr. Michael Manley, said it was sad to see that the worth of the workers which inspired the founders of the political movement was being devalued by policies similar to those which led to the action of May, 1938.

Mr. Manley, in his Labour Day (May 23) Message, said answers were being sought to the perennial problems not through programmes which elevated the morale and condition of the workers but through the creation of opportunities for exploitation. Jamaicans were being sold to some foreign investors as not only excellent and adaptable "but more importantly as competitively cheap."

This promotion of cheapness of the Jamaican worker was an echo of the reverberations that rumbled in pre-1938 Jamaica, Mr. Manley said.

He went on, "It is ironic that JLP leaders in St. Ann will be implementing voluntary self-help projects in the parish when it is recalled how the leadership of that Party laughed and sneered at our government's annual "Put work into Labour Day" programme between 1972 and

1980."

He asked what had happened to the promise to "ensure that real wages of workers do not decline? Where are the incentives of bonus schemes for the achievement of targeted production and performance levels? Where is the improvement of the existing Labour Legislation?"

According to the Union President, there was an alarming situation where workers were labouring in "sweat shops" crowded with more machines and people than they were designed to accommodate to meet ever-increasing and unrealistic production targets. He questioned whether Labour Day was the last such that thousands of workers would celebrate in employment, not knowing if the termination axe would fall on them.

Mr. Manley gave an assurance that his party remained committed to improving the welfare of all the people and would continue to work for the promotion of a better and harmonious working relationship between management and workers so that "we can together work for greater production for Jamaica."

CSO: 3298/761

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT IMPORT, EXPORT POLICIES ARE FOCUS OF CONCERN

Stone Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 May 85 p 3

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

AFTER MUCH TALK and modest action on the subject of deregulating imports the Seaga government has now taken the bold step of opening up the Jamaican economy to outside competition via imports in most areas where there is some local production accustomed to protection and protected markets.

In spite of the higher duties imposed on imports over and above the duties on local products, the manufacturers and the farmers are shouting with one voice that Mr. Seaga's import deregulation policies threaten to wipe them out of business.

The manufacturers have been singing that tune for some time. The farmers have now taken up the chorus with even more angry tones.

Indeed, like the many poor people who are complaining that life under this present government is far worse than it was under Manley in the 1970's, large sections of the productive sector who see no easy path towards getting into export markets are now saying that the pro-private sector government of Mr. Seaga is now more threatening to their ability to remain in business than was the case with the ideological pressures under Manley in the 70s.

Clearly after much foot dragging to accommodate a slower time table of import deregulation to ease the anxieties of local farmers and manufacturers, external lending agency pressures are apparently forcing the

government to move swiftly on import deregulation.

The rationale

The rationale for these moves is that if our farmers and manufacturers are to make it into exports they have to learn to deal with competition. Import competition is supposed to make them more price and cost efficient and to sharpen them for the bigger arena of third-country markets. The consumers will get the gains from lower and more competitive prices and the economy will benefit by forcing producers to shift to areas of production where they can compete and abandon the areas where they are not price competitive.

While completely endorsing the policy emphasis on export expansion this column has never accepted the Seaga policy approach which seems to me to be promoting exports at the price of dismantling local production.

In Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico and many successful Third World export-oriented economies, ways have been found to promote export expansion via incentives and support while continuing to offer sufficient protection for local products to prevent their collapse in the face of foreign competition.

Like the farmers and the manufacturers this column has insisted that the widespread opening up of our economy to imports while all kinds of constraints continue to in-

hibit our easy entry to their markets like the U.S. (in spite of CBI) is an exercise towards national economic disaster.

We already had a taste of the likely short run consequences when in 1982 food imports dislocated local agriculture.

It has also been my position that we have to walk on two legs by trying to expand exports while attempting to reduce our high level of import dependence. The IMF-AID-World Bank policy framework being promoted by the Seaga administration mistakenly sees import substitution as being in conflict with export promotion efforts when in fact this economy needs both by developing policies that make both goals compatible.

The issue all comes back to who is paying the piper and calling the tunes. Put very bluntly, opening up our economy to a flood of imported goods is the price you pay for financial dependence on institutions who are far more concerned with expanding the global market for U.S. exports than with helping genuine national development in countries like Jamaica.

What must be vigorously challenged is the lie being told the Jamaican people that there are no alternatives to these self-defeating policies and that there is no other way to promote export expansion and increased hard currency earnings.

Clearly, in the face of the country's acute shortage of foreign exchange, some significant reduction has to occur in the number of enterprises that use up a lot of foreign exchange in production but earn none or very little. Some closures among these business enterprises at this time of severe foreign exchange problems is clearly unavoidable. The problem is that the IMF-AID-World Bank policy approach indiscriminately shifts resources away from local production to exports without providing any policy means of encouraging local production in strategic areas so as to reduce import dependency and enhance our economic self-sufficiency.

Instead of making that choice on the basis of what areas of local production are more essential than others (i.e. by planning), what is being done is to use the market mechanism of import competition to determine who or what will survive and which enterprises will die.

Negative impact

To be sure, there is a level of consistency to the government's policies that cannot be denied. The forces of supply and demand have been used to fix the exchange rate. The big devaluations and the high price of credit and capital have been used to ensure, via market forces, that only the most efficient users of foreign exchange and capital will survive. Import competition will likewise wipe out the more cost inefficient firms. The problem is that these market forces favour big corporate enterprises with easy access to resources by which to adjust to the market pressures, but discriminate against most small enterprises which employ most of the labour in the country and include sectors of great strategic value for the country's development.

The earlier moves to open up the economy to increased consumer imports in 1981-82 had a predictable negative impact on farmers and manufacturers. The scale on which this deregulation is now being put in motion suggests that by end of year many farmers and manufacturers are either going to go into buying and selling to survive or will have to close their businesses.

When normally cautious and moderate commentators like Vin Lumsden begin to project this import policy as threatening to wipe out large sections of local agriculture and when most manufacturers are saying the same thing about their prospects of survival, it is clearly necessary for the country to begin to examine the rationale for these policies and demand answers from Mr. Seaga about their likely effects.

What I fear

Does it really make any sense to encourage the satisfaction of consumer needs from imported products in a country that is burdened with huge debts and has a chronic shortage of foreign exchange? Will we not be merely borrowing on an even more massive scale to finance these imports in the economy? Once we open up the economy in this fashion will it not wipe out any policies designed to create local self-sufficiency in food and other areas of production? Will we not be seeing a larger version of the earlier battles between merchants, on the one hand and farmers and manufacturers, on the other, in which the merchants are going to win everytime?

If Vin Lumsden and Claude Clarke are right about inadequate protection for local producers and Mr. Seaga is wrong, this import policy might well be the first step towards pushing our economy backwards to where it was before World War two.

What I fear is that there will be no monitoring of the effects of the policy to minimise or remove adverse effects on the productive sector and once implemented the policy is not likely to be reversed until we have a change of government.

Threat to Sugar

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 26 May 85 p 1

[Text] The President of the Jamaica Exporters' Association, Mr. Claude Clarke has warned that Jamaica stands to lose millions of dollars in export sales because of a newly announced 50% increase in the price of sugar to exporters of processed foods.

Previously, Mr. Clarke said in a statement issued on Friday, that manufacturers of processed foods for export, had purchased sugar at a cost of 52¢ per pound. The newly announced price is 78¢ per pound.

Mr. Clarke expressed the view that the increase would adversely affect recent breakthroughs which processed food exporters had made in important hard currency markets. He noted that the price of sugar had been declining on the world market at the same time that the price to local exporters had been increased. This, he said, would make it difficult for exporters of processed foods which used sugar to compete in the export arena.

'Unfortunate'

He noted that the food processing industry was presently holding orders which had been secured on the basis of the price of sugar before the increase was announced. Many of these orders may now be lost, he said, as export prices would have to be adjusted in order to accommodate the new increases in the price of sugar.

In his statement, Mr. Clarke said that he questioned the wisdom of imposing a levy which would inevitably reduce the competitiveness of exports, thus reducing the country's export earnings.

"How can it possibly benefit the country to impair the chances for development of the industry that has the greatest potential for net foreign exchange earnings?" he asked.

Mr. Clarke noted that the food processing industry had made great strides in the development of export markets in recent times. Presently, he said,

Jamaica had new opportunities for exporting processed foods to the United Kingdom, Singapore, and even the People's Republic of China.

"It would be very unfortunate if highly inappropriate tax measures caused the demise of these efforts," he observed.

CSO: 3298/761

JAMAICA

HONG KONG GARMENT FIRMS TO EXPAND LOCAL EXPORT OPERATIONS

Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 6 Jun 85

[Text] Jamaica, June 6, CANA--Four Hong Kong-based companies with garment manufacturing operations at Jamaica's Kingston free zone are to expand their export plants here under a J58 million dollar (one JCA dollar; 18 cents U.S.) package, Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Hugh Shearer announced in Hong Kong.

According to the GLEANER newspaper, Shearer, who is now on a visit to the British Far Eastern colony, said the programme required the building of an additional 200,000 square feet of factory space at the free zone and a further 100,000 square feet in rural areas.

The companies involved are East Ocean Textiles, Afasia, Magma and Baguatta, and their spending will be in machinery, plant technology, training and marketing.

It was not clear if the J58 million dollars would also include the cost of the factories, which are usually constructed either by the free zone or the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation (JIDC) and rented.

Shearer said the planned expansion by the companies, which have been operating here over the past few years, was evidence of their satisfaction with Jamaica as a business partner and as an ideal location.

Jamaica, whose currency devaluations have made wages here the lowest in the region, has been promoting itself as the garment manufacturing centre for the future, stressing its easy access to the U.S. market under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and to the European Community (EEC) countries under the Lome Agreement.

Apart from low wages, Jamaica has been enticing investment with lucrative incentives and easy repatriation of profits, especially for those companies operating under the free zone umbrella.

The island has been able to attract some Hong Kong companies and is seeking to woo more, especially those still nervous about the colony's future when sovereignty is handed back to Communist China with the expiry of the British lease on the territory near the end of the century.

Shearer said the expansion by the four companies will mean the creation of 8,150 jobs. The export end of the garment sector here currently employs around 9,000 people.

Most of the production is under an American scheme where components of the garments are brought here from America for assembly and re-export. Duty is paid in the U.S. only on the foreign content, essentially cheap labour.

This system is attractive to many Far Eastern garment manufacturers whose countries have reached their own export quotas to the U.S. and are looking for new bases in countries such as Jamaica.

Shearer, in a speech in Hong Kong Tuesday, told businessmen there that Jamaica had an attractive political and economic environment which encouraged trade and investment. Jamaica, he said, would welcome proposals from other Hong Kong companies interested in manufacturing for export to North American and Europe.

CSO: 3298/761

REPORT SHOWS PRODUCTION OF MOST CROPS CLIMBED in 1984

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text]

Agriculture has responded positively to the Government's policy of structural adjustment, aimed at diversifying exports, according to the Production Statistics 1984, tabled in Parliament last Thursday.

It is observed that the production of most crops improved in 1984. "This was especially the case in the production of vegetables, with crops such as tomatoes, cauliflower and pepper recording substantial increases."

The document said that production of some traditional export crops such as sugar cane, cocoa and coffee showed moderate improvements; "however, banana and citrus experienced declines in production."

It added that the performance of the manufacturing sector was not as strong, as difficulties in obtaining credit and the deterioration of the value of the Jamaican dollar created pressures on the sector.

"Increased costs of most products in the food and drink subgroup led to a decline in consumer demand for some products such as poultry meat and condensed milk. Sugar, molasses, aerated water, beer and stout all experienced declines in 1984."

But the document notes that not all products experienced negative growth as flour and cornmeal recorded substantial increases. "Products geared for the export market, such as wearing apparel also showed

marked expansion. Activities in the mining sector, although not as strong as in previous years, improved over 1983 with only alumina experiencing a decline," the document states.

The document says: "In the past the role of agriculture in generating economic growth was not fully realised with the result that there was a decline in production especially of the traditional export crops."

Then it continues, "With the decline in the earnings of the bauxite-alumina sector, agriculture is now being seen as one of those sectors capable of generating economic growth given its capacity to provide high net foreign exchange earnings and high labour employment at a low per capita cost."

Noting the launching of Agro-21 in 1983 with emphasis on non-traditional export crops geared for the winter season on the North American continent and using advanced technology, the Review concludes that the impact of this programme has resulted in improved levels of production in 1984.

"Increases in farm gate prices and easier access to credit have also influenced growth in this sector," the Production Statistics 1984 states.

Sugar cane production grew by 4.4 per cent, a switch from the past three years; plantain grew by 21.8 per cent, the highest production in

15 years; coffee grew by 11.5 per cent, continuing a three-year growth path; cocoa moved by 22.2 per cent; pimento by 16.3 per cent; and ginger grew by 37.2 per cent.

Bananas declined by 37 per cent to its lowest level of production in 15 years. Sweet oranges dropped by 10.7 per cent and grapefruit slid by 22.4 per cent.

But it was in the category of vegetables-legumes and pulses that the most outstanding performances came. Water melons increased by 58.1 per cent, beet root by 49.5 per cent, tomatoes by 54.2 per cent, cauliflower by 79.5 per cent and pepper by 85.1 per cent.

Production of peas and beans increased by 14.1 per cent, the highest level since 1968. Pumpkins also outdid itself for the past 17 years, improving by 20.1 per cent. There were moderate increases for corn, carrots, cabbage, turnips and cucumber. Peanuts, lettuce and celery, however, bit the dust.

Sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes increased by 49 and 61.9 per cent respectively while yams moved up by 14.1 per cent. After five years slipping down the hill, tania, coconuts and dasheen increased by 24.2 per cent. Onions did remarkably well with an increase of 107.5 per cent and cassava improved by 15.4 per cent. Rice production continued to move up to the 1977 peak production growing by 58.4 per cent last year over 1983.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT HYPOCRISY CHARGED IN ANTI-DRUG EFFORT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 May 85 p 8

[Article by Morris Cargill]

[Excerpt]

As might be expected, the P.N.P. is excusing its recent 'protest' at Cross Roads and New Kingston with its usual double-talk. It could hardly have been an accident that various incidents and quite a bit of destruction to property, occurred at the Wyndham Hotel where some 150 travel agents were expected, and that the foreign press would be covering.

These 'protests' are nothing more than irresponsible mischief-making. If a Party can be so irresponsible and silly in its 'protests', one shudders to think what sort of government it would give us were it ever to come back to power.

There is reason to believe that the P.N.P., no doubt aided by its Communist allies, will be continuing to mount protests which by a strange series of co-incidences, will have the effect of harming the tourist trade, that most delicate of all our foreign exchange earners.

Mr. Michael Manley has said that protests of this kind do no harm to

Jamaica's economy. As Mr. Manley is (I'm glad to say) now recovering from a serious operation, I will make no comment on this occasion.

The P.N.P. is not the only set of politicians to talk out of both sides of its mouth, though undoubtedly its members and its leaders may be considered the Jamaican champions.

Great war

For instance, we constantly hear, from the mouths of some JLP leaders about the great war the government is waging against ganja. But we must be forgiven for concluding, based on the manner the matter of the shipment of 6 tons of ganja by an Air Jamaica aircraft was, and still is, being handled, together with the assorted threats (ending in silence) to collect mighty sums of income tax from the ganja barons that the government is not taxing the barons, but protecting them.

Now, it may be useful to make one or two things clear. Our export trade in ganja is what has been saving our economy from collapse, and employs thousands of people who would be otherwise unemployed. Our government must know this; but it is caught in a bind. The USA, from whom all blessings flow, has told us that we must stop the trade if we are to expect the aid. Thus, a good deal of hypocrisy seems in order. It is only prudent to seem as if we are

mashing up the ganja business, even if we are not.

Nothing new

But hypocrisy is nothing if it is not well executed. The antics of the government over the enforcement of income tax against the barons, and the so-called drastic action against the Air Jamaica shippers of ganja wouldn't fool a child, least of all the U.S. government; but it does tend to mislead our own citizens. Politicians are, as a class, masters of hypocrisy, and we have every right to expect ours to operate with a good deal more subtlety than they are at present doing. It's all very well to try to fool the USA; but when the government tries so ineptly to fool us, all that happens is that the government loses credibility.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe the government is trying its poor best to wreck the ganja export business. In which case all I can say is that with the PNP trying to wreck the tourism industry, and the JLP trying to wreck ganja exports, we've all got ourselves into as nice a jam as can be imagined.

Better just plain, unvarnished hypocrisy than the pious, holy-rolling, psalm-singing blend that we are now getting from all sides.

CSO: 3298/762

JAMAICA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PLANS SEVEN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 85 p 18

[Text]

SEVEN SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE have been allocated a total of \$5.7 million in the 1985-86 Budget which is now before the House of Representatives, according to releases from JAMPRESS.

Details about them and other programmes under the Capital Budget, will be outlined to the House and the Nation by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, when he makes his contribution to the Budget Debate of Wednesday, June 12.

The programmes are:

- Soil Conservation which will be carried out on Government-owned lands and special areas throughout the Island, to reduce soil loss and increase productivity — \$800,000.
- Forest Development which involves the continuation of a long-term programme of forest plantations to satisfy the nation's future demands for timber and other wood products — \$800,000.
- Development of Offshore Fishing for which \$500,000 has been provided. This programme provides for improving the facilities on the beaches including Morant and Pedro Cays. It also provides subsidy on outboard motor fuel and mesh wires, computerization of the fishermen's credit scheme and the training of fishermen.

- Improvement to public gardens and zoo — \$200,000.
- Agricultural Mechanical Services — \$200,000.

Three hundred and seventy five thousand dollars has been allocated to the Agricultural Development Corporation for developing the seedstock of sheep and goat for the expansion of mutton, cheese and milk at Hounslow, St. Elizabeth; while \$106,000 has been granted for livestock improvement and \$600,000 for crop care.

● **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

The Jamaica Agricultural Research Project to complete the physical facilities for conducting research in livestock, crops and plant protection has been allocated \$2 million in the Budget.

The project includes the building of a complex at Montpelier in St. James and the expansion of the Bodles Agricultural Station in St. Catherine.

It is part of a \$16.7 million programme financed jointly by the Government of Jamaica and the United States Agency for International Development is expected to be completed during the current financial year.

A sum of \$800,000 has also been provided for the Ministry's Water Resources Development Programme.

The Rural Development Programme being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture has been allocated \$1.2 million.

A sum of \$800,000 goes to the development of land settlers to facilitate the allotment of properties to small farmers. Four hundred thousand dollars has been provided to continue the programme of employing trainee field assistants on a temporary basis in order to provide support to field assistants and extension officers within the land settlements.

A total of \$20.8 million has been allocated for rural development in the Budget of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY--Jamaica and Uruguay have established diplomatic relations. Following consultations between the two countries there was an exchange of Notes between Mr. Pedro Vidal Salaberry, special envoy of the Government of Uruguay, and Mr. Lloyd M.H. Barnett, permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations. "Both countries re-emphasised their adherence to the principles of the charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States, and agreed to the establishment of resident or non-resident missions when the circumstances allow," an official release said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 May 85 p 3]

SPENDING TO FIGHT CRIME--MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, says there is an increasing demand on the security forces to combat crime and they must be given more resources to deal with the mounting problems. He said society would have to make economic adjustments to ensure that the security forces were provided with finance for the necessary equipment and facilities to fight crime. This would have to be done in spite of the economic difficulties facing the nation. There might be some who would question capital expenditure for the security forces, "but if the ganja barons and cocaine kings, who believe everybody has a price, and the gunmen who think their combined strength can make segments of society bow," and rapists and thieves were to be fought, the security forces had to be equipped. (In the Estimates of Expenditure tabled in the House of Representatives on May 16 by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, Hon. Edward Seaga, the Ministry of National Security and Justice got the third highest allocation--\$377.2 million, with \$357.1 million for recurrent expenditures and \$20.1 million for capital expenditure.) [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 85 p 1]

OCHO RIOS DEVELOPMENT--Residents in Ocho Rios and its surrounding environs are to benefit from extensive development and the upgrading of facilities in that resort town by Government, "to further improve the quality of life there and make the area a highly developed and more sought-after tourist destination." These projects include the construction of a second cruise-ship pier, completion of several housing developments and the upgrading of water supplies and the sewerage scheme in the area. This was announced by Prime Minister Edward Seaga while delivering the main address at a Labour Day function hosted by the recently formed St. Ann/St. Mary Tourism Protection Committee at the Turtle Beach Playing Field yesterday evening. The Prime Minister also disclosed that

the new legislation to protect visitors to the island has now been approved by Parliament and should be ready for implementation within the next three months. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 85 p 3]

NEW JOBS--KINGSTON, May 3 (JAMPRESS)--Some 848 new jobs will be created from 13 projects approved for incentives at the 36th sitting of the Joint Ministerial Commission chaired by Prime Minister Edward Seaga at Jamaica House on Thursday. The 13 projects will generate over US\$3.7 million in foreign exchange. In addition, seven projects were given foreign investment approval through the Bank of Jamaica, by the Committee. Of the 13 projects approved for incentives, three were approved under the Hotel Incentives Act 1968 which will provide the tourism industry with 88 additional rooms. Three were granted incentives under the Export Industry Encouragement Act of which two were 807 garment manufacturing concerns and the third a furniture manufacturing enterprise. Others for which waiver of duties and other incentives including moratoria were granted include a rice growing project, a Data Entry project and four agro-related enterprises. In keeping with Government's policy for diversification, the projects are spread across the island and parishes to benefit from their implementation are, Portland, St. Elizabeth, St. James, Trelawny, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Westmoreland and Kingston. Employment is projected to rise to 1,173 from these 13 projects by year three. Some 33,200 square feet of factory space will be utilised for manufacturing while 96 acres of land will be used in the agricultural projects. Incentives are granted by the Committee for the potential contribution to employment and the generation of additional foreign exchange as well as savings to the country. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 May 85 p 3]

FACTORY FIRE--FIRE SUSPECTED TO BE THE WORK of arsonists yesterday morning destroyed the Butterkist Biscuit Factory located at 2 Valentine Drive, Kingston 8, resulting in damage estimated at \$40 million. One hundred persons have been put out of work in what was one of the most damaging fires in Jamaica's history. A Fire Brigade spokesman told the Gleaner that damage to the building, equipment and stock was estimated to be about \$40 million. Much modern, expensive machinery was destroyed in the blaze, he said. Manager of Butterkist Limited, Mr. Owen Munroe, said that none of the factory's equipment was saved from the fire. Mr. Munroe said he believed the fire was the work of arsonists. Firemen were of the same belief and they and police were yesterday digging among the rubble of the factory to unearth clues to the origin of the blaze. Guards with dogs were on duty at the factory when the fire broke out and investigators are wondering how the blaze was not discovered in its early stages. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 May 85 p 1]

CONVERSION TO COAL--Officials in Jamaica say a Japanese firm has been awarded the \$34 million contract to convert the state-owned cement company to coal. The total project will cost about \$90 million and is scheduled for completion in 1987. Construction will begin this month and will employ some 350 people. [Text] [FL061918 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Jun 85]

MEXICO

NEW INTERPOL CHIEF DISCUSSES MORAL, PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Apr 85 pp 5-A, 19-A

[Text] "I believe in God, in respect toward humans and in loyalty. I am institutional, and throughout my life experience has taught me that it is best to work properly, even though one does not succeed in owning material wealth. I was at a seminary in my native Colima from the age of 14 to 17. Later, because I was honest with myself, I chose to hang up my habit and become a bullfighter."

With unhurried speech and a fixed, penetrating look, grimly frowning, with his brow knit, Florentino Ventura Gutierrez occasionally tried to smile, in order to lend his harsh appearance a kindly aspect, while he talked to EXCELSIOR a mere 10 hours after having been appointed for the second time director of the International Police (INTERPOL)-Mexico Division.

His mind may have been wandering in space while he evoked his past and his views to answer the questions asked of him. The loud ringing of the telephone constantly interrupted the conversation. Then he would hang up the receiver, and think a little before taking the conversation in the direction that he wanted, in a tone of voice meant to be cordial.

He remarked: "As a bullfighter, I could never wear an embroidered outfit, because I had no money to purchase it, and I had to be content at that time with going from one hamlet and one town to another, like scores of others seeking fame, as I was, in order to earn a few centavos. Those were hard times, but I can swear that the situation did not scare me, because of the training that I had had previously in the seminary, where the soldiers of God were trained."

During the past 6 years, in his capacity as first commander and director of INTERPOL, Florentino Ventura was in charge of the investigation of Eugenio Mendez Docurro, former secretary of communications, and of Felix Barra, former head of agrarian reform, whom he eventually brought to jail.

He was also in charge of the cases of Alfredo Rios Camarena, former director of the Bahia de Banderas tourist complex; Fausto Cantu Pena, of the Mexican Coffee Institute; and Leopoldo Ramirez Limon, of the National Pawnshop.

The now newly appointed director of INTERPOL, Mexico section, was the one who hunted around the world for the former chief of the capital police, Arturo Durazo Moreno; an investigation which ended about 8 months ago with the latter's capture in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Previously, Florentino was also responsible for the investigation that made it possible to discover a series of irregularities committed by the former director of Mexican Petroleum, Jorge Diaz Serrano, who is currently incarcerated in the southern prison of Mexico City.

Ventura attempted to avoid this type of recollection, evading responses to the questions, and discussed the topic on which he wanted to comment.

"The situation was becoming worse, and one day I obtained a job as a radio telegrapher, holding it until, in early 1949, the Federal Security Directorate began to be formed under the command of Gen Marcelino Inurreta, who knew me. He invited me to join that agency, and I immediately accepted, because it seemed really interesting to me."

"Why do people fear you so much?"

"You see, those who act outside the law, and those who damage in one way or another the society in which they are living have fear. They are people who come to fear even their own shadow. They are not afraid of me; they are afraid of what I represent, because they have violated good regulations. That is what they fear, not Florentino Ventura, a man who is merely a policeman, adhering to unbreakable principles, who does not allow himself to be bought for a few pesos, and who has not felt the shame of being pointed out as arbitrary or dishonest."

"Do you believe in the moralization of the country's police forces?"

"Of course, of course I do. At the instruction of the attorney general of the republic, Dr Sergio Garcia Ramirez, a strict selection is being made of the personnel who are joining, as well as a stringent supervision of those already belonging to the Federal Judicial Police. But, in my view, not only are the members being overseen and checked, but also there is a very effective means for keeping the personnel from falling into temptation. And that is higher pay, because their responsibility extends to the point of risking their lives."

"Do you think that the Federal Judicial Police agents can avoid the temptation to go into collusion with the drug traffic, for thousands or millions of pesos?"

"The fact is that the largest percentage of those of us who belong to the Federal Judicial Police have done so out of conviction; and even though there are some who have succumbed or who will succumb to that temptation, we must realize that it is not a considerable number. So, not all of us "are cut out of the same cloth," and as an example I can remind you that it was my group

which captured Sicilia Falcon, one of the leading members of the international drug traffic, despite the fact that there were offers of millions and millions of pesos for us to allow him to escape."

Ventura was interrupted for a moment by another telephone call, and then he went on to say:

"We even caught Sicilia when he had managed to escape through a tunnel in the old Black Palace of Lecumberri; and in this case there was even one official in collusion, who was also captured. Furthermore, among other things, at the end of the last 6-year period, we captured the ring of Colombians who had been moving drugs across the southern border to the northern part of the country with airplanes and super-modern equipment. And, in addition to two jets, we seized 140 kilograms of pure cocaine from them. There is the case of Pedro Aviles, the super-czar of drugs, who was arrested with 32 kilograms of heroin and 18 tons of marijuana, about 2 years ago. So, we could tell you about many cases wherein the Mafia's money did not manage to corrupt the police."

The interview had an untimely end, after the internal telephone ("the network") sounded. Ventura excused himself, expressed thanks for the interview and left his office.

2909

CSO: 3248/336

12 July 1985

MEXICO

BRIEFS

CHIAPAS CLERIC ON DRUGS--Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, 27 March--The auxiliary bishop of this town's diocese, Felipe Aguirre Franco, claimed that 60 percent of the land in this state suited for cultivation is used to grow marijuana; adding that the trafficking and consumption are serious, since they have been discovered in schools and jails primarily. He remarked that civil authorities are involved in drug growing and trafficking, headed by a well organized ring of traffickers who provide the seed, credit, fertilizer and other input to the state's needy farmers, so that they may grow the grass along with other products and it will not be discovered by any authorities. Aguirre Franco noted that he had received complaints from inhabitants of settlements who claim that they cannot stop growing marijuana because they have been threatened with death; and hence it cannot be denied that they do so out of fear of being victims of the drug traffic Mafia. Concerning the authorities, the cleric said that they are doing nothing to resolve this anomaly; because they are apparently in collusion with the Mafia members. The bishop commented that it would be feasible for Mexico to close its borders, so as not to allow the entry of promoters of this vice coming from Central and South America; and that for the past 8 years the problem has worsened in the state, with the growing and trafficking of narcotics. The priest observed that he had urged all the local farmers to unite and oppose the drug traffickers, and to refuse to continue growing marijuana on their properties. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Mar 85 'States' section pp 1, 4] 2909

CSO: 3248/336

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MITCHELL EXAMINES REGIONAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 3-5 Jun 85

[Article by Prime Minister James Mitchell: "What Kind of Caribbean Do We Want?"]

[3 Jun 85 p 2]

[Text]

NOT SINCE the Churchill-Roosevelt deal exchanging destroyers for land bases has there been any serious U.S. planning in the Caribbean.

Once more security brings the U.S.-Caribbean relationship into focus; President Reagan has announced the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

In 1940, the enemy was clearly distinguishable and equally recognised to be such, both by the Caribbean and the United States. In 1982, however, although the U.S. may be single-minded in its position, the Caribbean with its political diversity cannot agree on a common enemy.

The recent decades of separate independence, and all the opportunities missed at political union, have created the opportunity for multiple sovereignty and in turn the right of the various Caribbean states to conflicting foreign policies.

Although under the umbrella of the Caribbean Community there is the pious hope of foreign policy co-ordination, in fact, this has been confined to securing trade preferences or jobs for

the boys in the international agencies.

Many a plenary session of a Caribbean Foreign Ministers meeting will issue a grand communique on a common position, but in practice, ministers are quite capable of striking their country's bilateral deal in private, much to the embarrassment of foreign governments dealing with the Caribbean.

A lot of time and effort can be wasted in trying to help the Caribbean if, from the outset, this insularity is not recognised.

President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative must, therefore, first of all come to terms with the heterogeneous nature of the sovereign states in the region, and their conflicting priorities.

Lest the underlying intention of the Caribbean Basin Initiative be to maintain the status quo in the Caribbean, I would like to point out that the status quo in the Caribbean is one of poverty.

To talk, therefore, of maintaining the status quo means to advocate reinforcing poverty.

Policies of assistance to these islands must therefore guide change, or at least encourage the need for change. The political parties of the centre seeking orderly change are the natural allies of a self-confident America, and not those imposing so-called stability on a starving population.

The low economic level of the vast majority of our people remains the basic problem. Massive financial assistance is essential. But merely pumping money will not of itself improve matters.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative will be mainly money down the drain if the inherent weaknesses of the region and the specific problems of each state are ignored.

Corruption and incompetent administration steadily consumes huge portions of well-intentioned aid money; but I propose to discuss some of the other factors which drastically diminish the value of aid.

The population explosion negates many of the hard-earned tax dollars poured into the region. Our population is doubling every 20 years. Can any of us really cope with a Caribbean population twice its present size by the turn of the century?

Barbados, the citadel of common sense in the Caribbean, is the only

island that has announced, and proudly, nil population growth. Unfortunately, the announcement of such a target in many islands could trigger a riot.

In projecting the quality of life desired in the Caribbean, we must have the courage to ask the question: Just how many people can these islands accommodate? Will St. Vincent with a per capita income of \$250 for 115,000 people be able to cater for 230,000 by the year 2000? How can we cope with a country in which 50 per cent of the population is under 18 years and 30 per cent of the babies are produced by teenage mothers who do not even own their own bedroom?

The arguments about population control have been voiced time and time again, but as long as the problem exists, policy planners will have to come back to it, and it is important that we, the policy makers, spell out the problem clearly. We cannot expect others continually to pick up the bill for our indifference.

Finite resources cannot satisfy infinite growth. Oil crisis, lesson one. Other lessons like phosphate shortages for food production are waiting in the wings.

And as elsewhere in the developing countries any development strategy for the Caribbean that excludes an ingredient of population control will be doomed to failure.

Nor will seminars for the elite be enough. Birth control appreciation has to be part of basic education that functions within the framework of enhanced economic opportunity.

Wealthy Roman Catholics the world over ignore the Pope, and the problem is left with the uneducated poor. Poverty brings instability which brings repression and states of emergency.

Religious fanatics who oppose birth control support the imposition of states of emergency and all the evils which come under that heading.

Next, the brain drain! The massive capital required for our recovery needs talent for conversion into growth. When the people who know how to make money work have vanished, recovery will be slow.

The tragedy of Jamaica today is the loss of talent in the last decade. The executives, and the plumbers whose children are now at school in Miami, will not return home to start reorganising their family life. The confidence they lost in their country will not return after one election.

But above all, it is the constitutional fabric in which our islands are in suitably clothed which is the basic impediment to improvement of our low productivity.

Transported Westminster is not working in these islands. Indeed, Roy Jenkins of Social Democratic fame in Britain, has enunciated in his Dimpleby lecture how the Westminster system is partly responsible even in Britain for industrial decline.

No country has articulated more clearly than the United States, the belief that productivity is tied to the political system. I agree. Extensive capital investment will not create self-sustaining growth in an unproductive political system, be it in Poland or Haiti.

The constitutional systems in these islands befell us while America, languishing in Vietnam psychosis, allowed Britain to excuse herself from the problems she had created on America's doorstep.

I know that American diplomacy deliberately left the islands up to the British, while Britain

concerned itself with abandoning the islands. Our roads were abandoned, and so were our schools. Our health services in the Windwards do not match those of Martinique between us. Thus the United States must pick up the tab for American contributory negligence over the last two decades.

Stable government, it is said, is the real basis for economic growth. But stability cannot be derived from a system that establishes a government whose authority derives from a minority of the population. That system works in Britain where strong traditions have prohibited the unthinkable, where checks on maladministration through the press, the courts and public opinion are as strong as the government itself.

Not so in a small island where government is the main employer, the main dispenser of patronage and the guard-

ian of opportunity. And the financially eroded press barely exhibits a shadow of the truth. The minority government becomes paranoid, and it becomes, for example, a legal offense (and here I quote from the draft St Vincent Public Order Act) "to have an intention to bring into hatred or contempt, or to excite disaffection against the government." Furthermore, persons are to be detained who are suspected of having an intention of being about to commit an offence.

Foolish legislation, however 'legal', can be a prime cause of instability. Authoritarianism sponsored in this fashion prescribes economic chaos. Criticism is an essential nourishment for the healthy growth of a society.

When laws prevent criticism we inherit the infertile territory of calousness.

Without safeguards, the Westminster system

allows a minority to legislate themselves into an authoritarian regime. Effective participation of substantial areas of the population can be silenced. In the 1980 Trinidad elections, the ONR party received 84,000 votes and no seats in Parliament, while the Alliance parties won 83,000 votes and 10 seats.

In the 1979 St Vincent election, opposition parties secured 46 per cent of the vote and two out of 13 seats, thereby providing the government with a two thirds majority capable of amending the constitution at will. Including those who did not vote, the mandate for the government was a mere 34 per cent of the electorate!

And St Vincent's record shows this type of power used to make the wife of a government minister the leader of the opposition.

[4 Jun 85 p 42]

[Text]

It is within this framework of authoritarian tendencies that one must be cautious in defining security needs. Experience of Guyana has taught that defence expenditure, like elsewhere in the Third World, is not directed at the external enemy, but at the citizens themselves, especially on election day.

But however repressive a regime becomes in the preservation of its own power, it may be overthrown—witness the Shah of Iran and the Emperor of Ethiopia. Likewise, an unworkable constitution cannot be assumed forever inviolate. Much of Africa has had to adapt to new constitutions to forge their developmental needs.

France with its centuries of self reliance has found a new formula in our lifetime. Indeed, the French model of ensuring that the government represents more than 50 per cent of the electorate is a principle we should emulate. Nor should we forget the chaos out of which the Fifth Republic was born. And we too should be allowed our appropriate constitutions in an attempt to bring sanity to our plural heritage.

Nor will we necessarily secure the formula for stability with one thrust. Trinidad and Tobago is a case in point. Not long ago, exhaustive consultation produced the republican formula, but the sudden profusion of oil wealth has created a new round of confusion. Autonomy for Tobago has pointed to the need for decentralization in Trinidad itself.

The heady rhetoric of self determination was supposed to come to an abrupt halt when the independence flags were hoisted, even though several

elements in the society remained adrift in a sea of selfishness. Decentralization is construed to be a threat to rulers. A free vote of autonomy is unpatriotic. But self determination is and will be a continuing process and can only be said to be realized when people enjoy a constitution that fulfills their lives.

The theory is put forward that autonomous territories will fall prey to Cuba or the Mafia as they too small to manage themselves. But autonomists are not unmindful of the Cuban guns constantly hammering the hungry Eriterians. And those who disparage the Mafia are already victims. In St Vincent's case more money is swindled through our offshore banks from U.S. accounts than our total annual budget!

Private agony multiplies into a public posture and in turns formulates foreign policy. The country that will help you shed your oppressor is your friend. Thus it is that internal frustration in Latin America breeds external support for the civil strife.

The ingredients of that cocktail now exist in the Caribbean. Then the United States plunges in, not when democratic principles are first negated, but in the climax of the confrontation when reasonable men have long perished. For it is always the strategy of the extreme left to destroy the centre advocating reform so that oppression matures and international socialist solidarity can be upheld as the only avenue for salvation.

Democracy is a delicate young seedling in the Caribbean. Incipient authoritarianism threatens peace. Grenada today we must not forget is a product of cheated elections and the collapse of institutions under repression. It is the early signal attacks on democratic institutions that must be arrested. A sentence here or there in a law undermining free and fair elections does not seem to deserve anyone's attention until holy hell breaks loose.

Guyana is the best example of legally perverse elections. St Vincent has just established rigid control of the electoral process by the Executive, complete with clauses to undermine the secrecy of the ballot. Heaped on these abuses covert financing of wicked administrations simply postpones the retribution. Populations double in 20 years.

In the face of all the conflicts emerging out of our political systems, the U.S. should be mindful of the real areas of linkage that exist between the U.S. and the Caribbean. Hardly a tomato is grown except from seeds supplied by a U.S. firm. The same goes for lettuce, cabbages and every vegetable. And agricultural diversification is the main prerequisite of our development. What fertile ground for American influence.

Had Britain not through its Commonwealth Development Corporation not imposed 220 volts/50 cycles, every piece of electrical equipment would be imported from the U.S. Indeed, the sooner we can streamline our industrial energy to U.S. standards, the better.

[5 Jun 85 p 58]

[Text]

Not a single tourist arrives in the Caribbean from Eastern Europe. Our agriculture, industry and tourism are linked to North America and Europe. Sooner or later, all unproductive adventur-

ism into other areas will come home to roost. Some 4,000 artists and writers from our area went to Cuba for Carifesta.

Had such a festival been held in New York,

the authorities would still be searching for those specialising in criticism of U.S. culture.

Every single family in the Caribbean has relatives in the U.S. or Canada. For all these influences how can we not feel close to the U.S. or Canada. However, ill-considered foreign policy by the United States in particular can destroy the influence of all these natural economic influences.

Tyranny, victimisation, arbitrary use of official power, creating a terrible living situation in the islands, if supported by the U.S., will drive the population to emotional refuge elsewhere. The errors of policy that have created El Salvador stare us in the Caribbean and Latin America today. Let me repeat, the advocates of change and reform are the natural allies of the U.S.

It is within the framework of guiding change that lie opportunities for profitable investment through careful planning.

Development is about people. It ought not to be simply defined in terms of architecture, traffic jams and joint communiques. When I look at the castles on an island like Mustique, rising out of the exquisite development plans, and compare them with the food on the plates of the original inhabitants nearby, I wonder what does progress mean?

Capital injection that returns us to the slave plantation constitutes the path of despair. Had there been the slightest instinct for fair play or decency, some measure of parallel progress would have been possible. Not slums and castles!

I offer the concept of parallel progress between the investor and those on whom effort is invested, as a fundamental objective in any planning criteria.

One real area where the developed countries of this hemisphere can help us is in the field of education. Perhaps the greatest difference between rich and poor countries of the world is in the quality of education. And the quality of a people's education affects seriously the quality of their lives.

The higher fees for foreign students in the advanced countries is the saddest inequity imposed on poor countries in recent years.

That you should impose this burden on our educational opportunity makes us all poorer. The foreign student of Canadian technology will tend to enhance Canadian exports to his country. And to deny us a glimpse of your standards of academic excellence enshrines chauvinism at home as a national objective and clothes our intellectuals with their unnecessary mantle of self-righteousness. Scholarships for study at all levels in academic and technical institutions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico and Venezuela should be a cornerstone of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

They should be awarded by a process of searching at the local levels, not simply allocated to governments as a hand-out to the children of ministers, their cronies or their friends.

In the battle for the minds of the future generation of leaders what a great opportunity for influence is lost by not providing the opportunity to study at your institutions. It is not a relevant argument against scholarships that the trained people do not return.

Some do, and those that do, have more influence than their numbers suggest. And, in any event, if they join the migrant community

their influence at home cannot be ignored. A good education lasts a lifetime, or more, as parents influence their children, and investment in people is what development is all about.

Investment in talent will in the long run yield better dividends than guns for the coast guard. The battle for the mind begins with the mind.

President Reagan has announced new aid for the Caribbean. How will this aid be dispensed? Will existing institutions be used or will a new expensive bureaucracy be created? Will the self-perpetuating Conference Industry simply produce more resolutions, more documents for libraries, more long-winded radio announcements?

Bilateral aid to the countries directly, using criteria clearly established with defined performance schedules and re-evaluation mechanisms, will be the optimum way to address the problem of aid dispensation. Care must be taken to identify the correct projects — those that will improve the lot of the poor. Very often, aid only reaches the rich in poor countries.

Evaluation should continue throughout the life of the project and continuity should be built in, irrespective of the government in power. Many Caribbean governments abandon projects started by their predecessors simply because of spite. Barbados abandoned a cement project but has to come back to it. I will give you an example in my constituency of the Grenadines. A study for an airport in Bequia was undertaken by British and Barbadian consulting firms along with the Caribbean Meteorological Institute and was completed in May, 1974 at a cost of \$130,000. This followed the \$600,000 Tourism Devel-

opment Strategy in May, 1972 which also recommended an airport. When the government changed, the project was dropped although no other project could help the people of the island more. Similarly, the airport built on the island of Canouan in 1974 has not yet been declared a port of entry for similar reasons. In the meantime, less feasible projects with less social benefit and creating more burdens on the tax base get priority.

President Reagan hopes to stimulate more private investment in the region. Private investors will do well to be guided more by the experience of existing investors in the country rather than by flowery assurances by government ministers at banquets in Washington.

Let them research the government's performance, for example — how long does it take to get project approval? Are letters to the prime minister answered? Is bribery expected?

We are pleased that the United States has

come to recognise the need for a new initiative in the Caribbean and has re-discovered the importance of these islands. I trust that the value attached to the Caribbean will be matched by the calibre of U.S. diplomatic personnel assigned to the region. There is no substitute for intelligent understanding of the region's aspirations and this could well prevent frequent spasms of diplomatic epilepsy.

I started this paper indicating how difficult it is for the United States and the Caribbean to find a common definition of the enemy.

President Reagan has identified the enemy as a foreign source. In my view, the enemies are already within our gates:

Rigged and unfair elections, bribery, corruption, poverty, overpopulation, constitutions that cheat large sections of the people, incompetence at the highest level, and the despair of the half-educated. Those who help us destroy these enemies will be our friends.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

UPM STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER ACTIONS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 10 May 85 p 10

[Text] The United Peoples Movement welcomes the Government's take over of the St. Vincent Electricity Services Ltd. and the estates collectively known as the Orange Hill Estate.

As most Vincentians are quite aware, the UPM had as long ago as 1979 advocated state ownership of both these enterprises for and on behalf of the people of this country and throughout the years we not only consistently maintained this position but actively struggled for their implementation.

In the case of the Orange Hill Estate we are disappointed that the NDP Government refused to fully investigate the transaction that resulted in the Danes temporarily owning the estate with a view to discovering whether the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Ordinance was contravened.

Equally, the UPM is of the view that a clear statement from Government is required on the issues of severance pay for the estate workers, the financial terms of Government take over and the nature of the land reform programme to be carried out above the Dry River. The UPM will support a land reform programme that is democratically evolved, that meets with the just demands of the estate workers and that serves to increase and modernise agricultural production in the area.

As regards VINLEC, we are surprised that the VINLEC workers and their capable trade union--National Workers Movement--were not officially informed beforehand of Government's take over. The Government must move swiftly to ensure that the NWM has representation on the Board of Directors of VINLEC and to allay the apprehensions by VINLEC workers that they will be worse off with full government ownership than they were the CDC.

The UPM will continue to support action by the state to intervene in the economy particularly in areas where foreign ownership is unnecessary or harmful and where local businessmen are unwilling or unable to supplant foreign capital. Once there is capable and democratic management on the part of Government, such action can only redound to the benefit of the local economy

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ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PAPER CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 10 May 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

..We would like to draw Government's attention to what we regard as an important part of democratic procedure that is missing from our present system of government. We refer to Local Government.

..The re-establishment and upgrading of Local Government was one of the things promised by Prime Minister James Mitchell when his New Democratic Party was campaigning for the people's support at the last general election. He spoke of the appointment of mayors to head the Local Government Boards.

..We appreciate that the NDP Government has accomplished a great deal in its short period in office. The handling of the Orange Hill issue, the take over of Vinlec, the demands caused by corruption in our sources of revenue have all taken time and governmental skill. We would be the last people to want to belittle these accomplishments.

..However, Mitchell's greatest asset as far as Vincentians are concerned is the promise of dedication to the maintenance of democracy. Democracy will be safest and most meaningful if the Central Government has Local Government institutions to support and disseminate its principles and transmit the sentiments and needs of people everywhere in the nation to the central body.

..We feel that the start of procedures to institute the re-establishment of Local Government organisations is due. Perhaps this has already been done and we are behind the times in the plans for progress in the country. If this is so the fact should be publicised.

..There is another area in which we think that action by Government would improve democratic procedures. We refer to the establishment of a meaningful Senate. This has already been urged by us, but we must be forgiven for repeating ourselves. A Senate which includes representatives of major national organisations would do much to facilitate the maintenance of real democracy, through permanent contact by government with the views of all significant segments of the community. We repeat our suggestion for a viable Senate which would provide a reservoir of information on the way organisations representing industrial and commercial interests; lawyers and other organised professions; trade unions, employers; women; youth and others are thinking.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

COCONUT EXPORT BAN--The exportation of coconuts from this country to its buyers in the United Kingdom, Canada, Trinidad and other Caribbean destinations has stop temporarily. This was stated by Trade and Agriculture Minister Eddie Griffith when he spoke to The Vincentian earlier this week. Griffith said that the St. Vincent coconut industry makes cooking oil to meet the demand of local consumers and to satisfy Guyana to which country it has made a commitment. Recently there was a large export of whole coconuts to Canada, England and the Caribbean which made it impossible for the industry to meet the local consumption need and to supply Guyana. Because of this a temporary ban has been placed on the exportation of coconuts to any country. The Minister was unable to say how long the ban will last. [Zan Lewis] [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 24 May 85 p 1]

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END